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REVIEWS

Rise and Progress of the British Power in India.
By Peter Auber, M.R.A.S. 2 vols. Allen & Co.

The Dispatches, Minutes, and Correspondence of the Marquess Wellesley. Edited by Montgomery Martin. 5 vols. Allen & Co.

A hundred years have not elapsed, since the possessions of the East India Company were limited to three settlements, of narrow extent, inhabited by a few hundred Europeans, who could scarcely defend themselves against pirates and banditti, much less compete with the powers of the native princes. Now, "the republic of Leadenhall Street" rules over an empire containing one hundred millions of subjects, raises a tribute of more than 3,000,000*l.* annually, possesses an army of above 200,000 rank and file, has princes for its servants, and an emperor a pensioner on its bounty; the village of Calcutta has become the metropolis of the East; Bombay possesses more trade than Tyre in the days of its glory; and Madras, in spite of its perilous surf, rivals the commercial prosperity of Carthage. There is no parallel to such a career in the annals of the world; conquerors indeed have acquired more extensive dominions in a shorter space of time, but they failed to establish permanent empire; after a few years the traces of their tempestuous passage were effaced.

It is always instructive to trace the gradual advance of states, and to mark the progressive steps by which vast acquisitions have been won and secured. But the history of the East India Company has more than ordinary claims on our attention; it is intimately connected with our national character and our national welfare; all too must desire to know, whether our Eastern empire has advanced the great cause of civilization, and whether our domination is likely to endure, or to meet at some time or other a precipitate overthrow. Impressed with these feelings, we commenced the examination of Mr. Auber's volumes, and we bear a willing testimony that they contain ample materials for forming a sound opinion; but we must add, that from the very outset he has arranged his documents with more of the skill of an advocate, than the candour of an historian; and when a reader closes the volumes, he cannot resist the impression that he has perused, not a history, but an elaborate vindication of the East India Company.

It would be impossible in our limited space, to investigate all the disputable questions on which Mr. Auber has pronounced an authoritative, but not always a satisfactory decision. In a rapid survey, however, of the rise and progress of the British Empire in India, we shall have opportunities of pointing out the conclusions which we chiefly regard as erroneous.

When the power of the Delhi emperors, or as they are usually called, the Great Moguls, was broken up, England and France were rivals for colonial dominion, and were in presence of each other on the coast of India. The history of their early struggles may be passed over without notice; and we turn at once to the circumstances attending the deposing of Suraj-u-Dowlah, which laid the foundation of the British supremacy in Bengal. On this occasion the British deposed the emperor of Delhi's viceroy, with whom we were at peace, without asking for,

much less receiving the emperor's sanction; elevated a new viceroy "for a consideration," and cheated the agent of their machinations by the trick of a double treaty. In Mr. Auber's account of the transaction, we find elaborate proofs of the worthlessness of Suraj-u-Dowlah, but not a hint that Meer Jaffier, his successor, was not, on Clive's own showing, one whit better; not a syllable about the double treaty; while "the consideration" is delicately disguised, as "some satisfaction for the inhabitants of Calcutta, in order to relieve them from their heavy losses in the recent capture." Meer Jaffier was next deposed, to make room for Cossim Aly; Mr. Auber coolly tells us, "the internal administration had been so wretchedly conducted by Jaffier Aly Khan, that the council concurred in his removal;" but he omits to say, that Cossim Aly purchased the "concurrence of the council by bribes to the amount of 200,000*l.*, of which 58,333*l.* was paid to Mr. Vansittart alone. This is an edifying comment on Mr. Vansittart's despatch to the Court of Directors, quoted with approbation by Mr. Auber, in which the worthy governor protests strongly against "the suspicion of interested views." To add to the consistency of these proceedings, we have only to mention, that Cossim Aly was again deposed, and Meer Jaffier restored. This, however, was "too bad" even for the Court of Directors; and accordingly we find, in the official letter from the Court to Bengal, "There is besides an obvious impropriety in setting up, pulling down, and again restoring, the same man, which cannot fail to be represented to the disadvantage of the Company."

In a former number (447), we gave a full account of Clive's second administration in Calcutta, and his vain efforts to restrain the corruption and rapacity of the subordinate officers of government. Mr. Auber shows, that the Directors forbade the crimes of their servants, but he does not inform us, that most of the delinquents were connected by family ties with the leading Directors, and were by their interest in the court, enabled to disobey orders with impunity. We agree with Mr. Auber, that under all circumstances the substitution of British rule for native viceregalities was justifiable; but the mode in which the proceeding was conducted will hardly bear scrutiny.

Instead of entering on the oft-repeated tales of Hyder Ali's wars and cruelties, we shall now turn to the important questions, which the territorial acquisitions of the Company raised between the Court of Directors and the British government. It became a serious constitutional question, whether the Crown had not a right to the sovereignty of these provinces; and the timidity of Lord North alone prevented the matter from being brought to an issue. But the right of Parliament was virtually asserted, by passing various acts of regulation, and the establishment of a custom of time bargains with the Company, which were, in fact, mere expedients to escape from difficulties becoming more complicated every hour. The administration of Warren Hastings greatly extended the Company's dominions, but the disputes between him and the Council threatened consequences, which no victories could compensate; they were mainly instrumental in directing that attention to the affairs of India, which led to Mr. Fox's India

Bill, and the celebrated impeachment of Mr. Hastings. The Court of Directors was soon involved in a contest with the House of Commons; the dismissal of Hastings and some of his associates was demanded by Parliament, and refused by the Company; and Mr. Hastings actually continued Governor General, after the House of Commons had resolved, that "it was the duty of the Directors to pursue all legal and effectual means for his removal." The distracted state of parties in 1783, prevented the evil consequences, which might have arisen from a struggle on this constitutional question.

The purport of Mr. Fox's India Bill was, to substitute the authority of a parliamentary commission for that of the Court of Directors; the incapacity of the latter to control its servants was notorious, but the efficiency of the proposed board was certainly questionable. It has been said, that the object of Fox was to create a parliamentary influence, by which he might be able to contend against the influence of the Crown; but the merits or demerits of the plan belong not to the minister; it was originally projected by Lord Clive, who frequently reprobated the absurdity of intrusting the government of an empire to a mercantile body, while he admitted the great constitutional danger which would arise from transferring such an enormous mass of patronage to the Crown. To the necessity of some very great change of system, Mr. Auber undesignedly brings a very remarkable piece of evidence, the letter of Mr. Warren Hastings to the Court of Directors, when he was recalled after the passing of Pitt's India Bill. Speaking of his immediate departure for England, the Governor General says, "I consider myself, in this act, as the fortunate instrument of dissolving the frame of an inefficient government, pernicious to your interests, and disgraceful to the national character." But there exists a still more valuable comment on the administration of the Court of Directors, before its powers were limited by the institution of the Board of Control—we mean, the report of Mr. Grant (father of Lord Glenelg) 'On the State of Society in India'; it is buried in the Parliamentary Report on the affairs of the East India Company in 1832, but it deserves to be attentively studied by all who take an interest in oriental questions. Mr. Grant, after a careful analysis of the proceedings of the supreme government, says, "In truth, upon a comparison of the country in the year 1757, after the battle of Plassey, and in 1769, when the power of the English in one form or another, had predominated twelve years, the result is extremely against the revolution." He ascribes the fearful famine of 1769 to the visitation of Providence, and successfully shows, that it could not have been produced by the frauds of monopolists; but he does not deny,—indeed, he pretty plainly intimates, that it was aggravated by the severity of the land and taxation systems adopted by the Company's servants. It has been said, that the accounts given of this calamity by Mr. Burke and others, were grossly exaggerated; we shall therefore extract Mr. Grant's description of it:—

"The famine was felt in all the northern districts of Bengal as early as November 1769, and, before the end of April following, had spread desolation through the three provinces. Rice gradually rose to four, and at length to ten times its usual price, but even at that rate was not to be had. Lingering multitudes were seen seeking subsistence from the leaves

and bark of trees. In the country the highways and fields were strewed, in the towns the streets and passages choked, with the dying and the dead.... In and about the capital the mortality increased so fast, that it became necessary to employ a set of persons constantly in removing the dead from the streets and roads, and these unfortunate persons were placed on rafts and floated down the river. At length the persons employed in this sad office died also, probably from the noxious effluvia they imbibed; and for a time dogs, jackalls, and vultures, were the only scavengers. It was impossible to stir abroad without breathing an offensive air, without hearing frantic cries, and seeing numbers of different ages and sexes in every stage of suffering and death. The calamity was not less in other quarters; in many places whole families, in others the people of entire villages, had expired. Even in that country there were persons who fed on forbidden and abhorred animals; nay, the child on its dead parent, the mother on her child. At length a gloomy calm succeeded. Death had ended the miseries of a great portion of the people, and when a new crop came forward in August, it had in some parts no owners. The number which fell in this period of horror has been variously estimated, and may, perhaps, be moderately taken at three millions."

Having briefly noticed the commencement, in 1778, of a system of wars, "with a view to the acquisition of territory," Mr. Grant thus describes the result:—

"Such were the necessities to which our affairs were reduced, that although we had before acquired a very forbidding experience of the farming system, a temporary recourse was again had to it in several districts, some of which were swept away by the renters with a rigour that became afterwards a subject of public inquiry. Thus, notwithstanding the useful regulations begun in 1772, through errors or defects in carrying the designs then adopted into execution, through the effects of intestine divisions, fluctuating counsels, foreign wars, and real or conceived exigencies of government, added to its common cares, a series of twelve years passed without the application of any effectual relief to the state of the country, without acting steadily and systematically upon the acknowledged necessity of fixing on just principles the extent of our demand upon the territorial possession, and giving the people, once for all, rest and exemption from every species of arbitrary taxation."

These testimonies, from such attached servants of the Company, are surely sufficient to justify the efforts of Fox and Burke to rescue Hindustan from the government of "a trading association"; and we may conclude our historical sketch of this period in the expressive words of Mr. Grant. "The history of our rule in Bengal is in great part a history of our own errors, or of the abuses, public and private, of power derived from us; and the brightest period of our administration there is that which has been employed in applying remedies to the political diseases, which either have arisen or become inveterate in the country, in our time."

We now come to consider the change made by Mr. Pitt's India Bill in 1784. With laudable candour, Mr. Auber admits, "it was fortunate for the Company that their interests had been made a party question;" in other words, had Mr. Pitt been unfettered, he would have made the change more extensive, more efficient, and more liberal to the general community. But in truth, the nation, rather than the minister, must bear the blame of the inadequacy,—we might almost say the impolicy,—of this settlement. The establishment of American independence had rendered almost everybody hostile to colonization; it was said, even by such enlightened statesmen as Mr. Grant, that if Englishmen settled in India, they would become the founders of a new race, less tractable than the native Hindûs,—they would demand the privilege of self-government through national assemblies, assume the control over the army and the do-

mestic administration, restrict the patronage of the Court of Directors, and finally resist the authority of the mother country. Consistently with these views, it was argued that unrestricted intercourse must lead to permanent settlement, and that if we did not govern it by a monopoly, we must eventually cease to govern it at all. Such arguments were irresistible to a people who had paid some hundreds of millions, and paid them in vain, to maintain the proud, but not very valuable privilege of being able to talk of our colonies in America. It was agreed, upon all hands, that the first object was to maintain our empire in India, and, as a necessary corollary, that the Company's monopoly should be maintained. We cannot, therefore, be surprised that Mr. Pitt's bill aimed at little more than securing the obedience and subordination of the Company's servants to the authorities in England. Limited as were the powers vested in the Board of Control, in the first draft of the bill, they were considerably abridged on the representations of the Directors; and the negotiations between the court of St. James's and the court of Leadenhall Street, partially published by Mr. Auber, gives us glimpses of a strange drama of diplomacy, which we should gladly see reported at full length.

Lord Cornwallis was sent out as Governor General under the new system; he exerted himself to remedy some of the most flagrant abuses in the administration, and, though opposed by a majority of the Supreme Court at Calcutta, he partially succeeded. He soon began to look with suspicion on the ambitious projects of Tipoo Sultan, and warned the government that, in case of a war with France, he would be found a dangerous enemy. Mr. Auber infers from this, that Lord Cornwallis foresaw the aggrandizing spirit of revolutionary France; but, in truth, his warning was derived from the past rather than an insight of the future. The French had tried first the plan of acquiring territorial possessions by interference in native wars, often excited by themselves; and they had been completely defeated, while the English had as completely succeeded. Anger for this failure, too high an estimate of the injury which the British power had received from the loss of the American colonies, and a confident belief that our power in the East was as insecure as it had proved in the West, were popular feelings in France, and were just as rife in the court of Versailles as in the clubs of the Jacobins. The anticipated danger led to a serious dispute between the Board of Control, or rather the premier, and the Court of Directors. The minister insisted on sending British regular troops to India, and compelling the Company to pay for their support. This seems to have been regarded as an indirect effort on the part of the Crown to grasp the patronage of the Indian army, and was, of course, strenuously resisted. Mr. Pitt settled the matter, by forcing an act of explanation through Parliament with all the influence at his command, but he had the mortification to encounter a fierce opposition from many of his staunchest supporters. The war with Tipoo, which rendered English authority supreme from the River Krishna to Cape Comorin, and assured the possession of the Carnatic, soon followed. Lord Cornwallis having brought it to a successful termination, returned home, and was succeeded by Sir John Shore, afterwards Lord Teignmouth.

During Shore's peaceful administration, the most remarkable events were the interference of the English, as armed arbiters, in the disputed succession of Oude, and the commencement of discontents among the officers of the Indian army, at the arrangement of the allowances by the Court of Directors. The latter subject soon became one of increasing annoyance, not to say

danger; the Company's officers being connected by ties of family interest with leading persons among the directors and proprietors, believed, and not without reason, that their delinquencies would be winked at, and they were encouraged in their insubordination by the example of Sir Robert Fletcher, who, after having been cashiered for mutiny, was actually appointed by the Court of Directors, Commander-in-chief of the army of Madras. We think that the recollection of this fact might have abated Mr. Auber's astonishment at "the unwarrantable spirit" displayed by the Company's officers.

Lord Mornington, now Marquis of Wellesley, was the next Governor General. The publication of his despatches by Mr. Montgomery Martin, a work of great historical value, and now completed, and those of his illustrious brother, the Duke of Wellington, by Col. Gurwood, render it unnecessary for us to enter at any length into the history of his administration. Still there were some important points of policy, respecting which serious differences arose between the Governor General and the Court of Directors, which require a few observations. The first of these was the employment of India-built ships in the trade with Europe; a measure which Lord Wellesley saw would be of equal advantage to England and the colonies. He was opposed by the shipping interest of the port of London, and by a majority of the Court of Directors. It is easy to see that the opposition was based on feelings of private interest; still it was so powerful, and so much in accordance with "the protective system," which had then an unshaken hold on national prejudice, that a statesman of less firmness than the Marquis of Wellesley would have succumbed. He persevered and prevailed, and in a few months the wisdom of his policy was so apparent, that most of his opponents became ashamed of their resistance.

The establishment of a college for civil servants at Calcutta, was also regarded by the Court of Directors as an alarming innovation; it threatened to interfere with patronage, by making merit rather than interest a qualification for office, and transferring the estimate of fitness for filling judicial and other appointments from London to Calcutta. It was abolished on the ground of expense, to make room for a system twice as expensive, and not half so effectual. Intimately connected with this was the third point of dispute, the interference of the Court of Directors with certain appointments made by Lords Wellesley and Clive, and especially the mission of Mr. Henry Wellesley to Oude. This third difference led to rather angry remonstrances on both sides, and it produced on the minds of several statesmen a conviction of the necessity of increasing the powers of the Board of Control, or adopting some other plan for giving to the Crown greater power in the administration of India. Lord Clive, on quitting Madras, addressed a spirited remonstrance to the Court of Directors, in which the insubordination, inefficiency, and delinquency of many of their servants were directly traced to their abuse of patronage, and to the encouragement which the idle and the dissolute received from authority superior to the government. Lord Wellesley, supported by the Board of Control, retained his place in defiance of the Court, and bore down all opposition by his brilliant management of the Mahratta war.

The great extent of country gained in the Mahratta war, gave rise to serious embarrassment after the Marquis Wellesley returned to Europe; his successor, Lord Cornwallis, died before completing the requisite arrangements, and Sir George Barlow, who acted as Vice Governor, adopted a line of policy which was totally

variance with that which had been recommended by his predecessor. A dispute arose between the ministers (Lord Grenville and Mr. Fox) and the Court of Directors, respecting the appointment of a Governor General; the former nominated Lord Lauderdale, the latter adhered to Sir George Barlow. After a long negotiation, both agreed on the appointment of Lord Minto; but before we follow his lordship to Calcutta, it is necessary to cast a glance at the administration of Lord William Bentinck in Madras.

Lord William Bentinck succeeded Lord Clive, afterwards Earl of Powis, in the government of the Madras Presidency; like his predecessor, he had to struggle against great subordinate opposition in attempting to reform the fiscal departments, but he displayed a more resolute spirit than Lord Clive, and his early exertions were crowned with success, because he began by laying down "responsibility" as the first great principle of delegated trust, and he made every new regulation bear directly on securing this great object. His minutes were masterly compositions, in which acknowledged rules of statesmanship were brought to explain every change; and though he had many enemies in the council of Madras, and many more in the Court of Proprietors, on account of his determined hostility to speculation, no opportunity was afforded them of "hinting a fault," or "hesitating dislike," until the unfortunate mutiny of Vellore, which was made a pretext for recalling him, with something very like censure. The history of this mutiny has been frequently written, but we have seen no account of it, not even Mr. Auber's, in which the simple truth has not been overlaid by the comments of party. Its history, however, may be told in a very few words. In the Indian army, Europeans alone could attain the rank of commissioned officers; many of the natives, but especially the Mohammedans, felt bitterly such a curb on their ambition; there were some among them who had served in the armies of Hyder and Tippoo, and who remembered instances of their companions having risen from the ranks to station and fortune. Furthermore the Company's officers treated the native subordinates as persons of an inferior class, a circumstance especially galling, as English supremacy was of very recent date. The deposed dynasty of Mysore, including Tippoo's family and some of his ministers, were on the spot to aggravate these feelings of not unjustifiable discontent, and the "preaching friars" of Mohammedanism lent their aid to fan the flame. A regulation respecting dress was made the pretext of revolt, though the shape of the sepoy turban had just in little connexion with the real point at issue, as the colour of the roses with the rival claims of the houses of York and Lancaster. A sanguinary mutiny ensued; it was suppressed with very little difficulty, and a vast number of prisoners awaited the sentence of the government. Lord W. Bentinck recommended leniency and pardon; his recommendation was distasteful, and the reasons by which it was supported still more so. An outcry was raised against him; it was said that his measures had provoked the revolt, and his impolitic clemency encouraged future insurrection. He was recalled. On his return to England, he proved beyond controversy that he had nothing to say to the obnoxious turban, which, like the Jewish scape-goat, was made to answer for the crimes and follies of all parties; and he vindicated the policy of mercy with reasons which admitted of no reply. The Court of Directors published two resolutions, acknowledging that Lord W. Bentinck had completely vindicated his character; the resolutions were verbose, complex, and not very intelligible; few took the trouble of reading them, and Lord

W. Bentinck long continued subject to imputations which had been retracted by his accusers.

Lord Minto touched at Madras in his voyage to Calcutta, and there confirmed Lord W. Bentinck's measures of leniency to the mutineers at Vellore; he reached Calcutta in 1809, and prepared to adopt a system of policy, which had long been the favourite scheme of the Court of Directors and the great majority of British statesmen. This was simply to introduce the European system of a balance of power into India,—an excellent plan, only there were no materials for constructing the system; and least of all could any such be found in the British dominions. The Company, in its opposition to colonization, had occupied, but not possessed its successive acquisitions; with the exception of its hired servants, (and not all of them,) there was not a single individual in any one of the provinces interested in maintaining its sway: its soldiers were mere mercenaries, its subjects wholly indifferent to the continuance of its power. In pursuit of this chimera Lord Minto committed many serious errors, yet his administration was, on the whole, beneficial to England, especially on account of his discerning the value of the Indian Archipelago, and supporting the policy of Sir Stamford Raffles, so rashly abandoned by the British negotiators at Vienna, in 1814. His prudence terminated a very serious dispute between the civil and military authorities at Madras, which had nearly produced fatal results: he tried the experiment of neutral policy with greater success than could have attended such a system in less able hands; and he acknowledged the change in his opinions with a manly candour, which is too rarely met with among modern statesmen. His death, immediately after his return, was a loss to India and to England.

The administrations of the Marquis of Hastings and Earl Amherst, the wars with the Pindarries, the Nepaulese, and the Burmese, require very few remarks; they fully demonstrated that the Company's empire could only be preserved by maintaining the same preponderance of power by which it had been acquired; and that conquests must, under such circumstances, frequently form part of a strictly defensive system.

But the extension of our territories consequent on the successful termination of these wars, led to the adoption of a system very little understood in England, even by persons generally conversant with Indian affairs, though it is fraught with the most important consequences; we mean the conclusion of subsidiary treaties with certain native states. The chief provisions contained in these treaties, are—1. The protection of the ruler by British power, against all enemies, foreign and domestic; 2. Mutual co-operation in war; 3. The maintenance of a British force by the native prince, for the protection of the state; 4. The reception of a British resident to advise the native sovereign, and convey to him the counsels of the British government, not only respecting his external, but also his internal administration; 6. The abandonment, by the native prince, of all political intercourse with other states.

It needs no lengthened argument to prove that the only check to excessive tyranny in the East, is the dread of popular insurrection; and this is completely destroyed by the very first stipulation of a subsidiary treaty. Restricted from the pursuits of ambition, and secured from the danger of revolt, the sovereign becomes at once extortionate and profligate, while British protection sanctions every oppression, and encourages every extravagance. Sir Thomas Munro, in a letter read to the House of Commons, declared that "he could trace the effects of the subsidiary system in decaying villages and de-

creasing population." Mr. Russell, who had been during twenty-one years Resident at Hyderabad, and Mr. Bayley, a member of council in Bengal, expressed the same opinion, even in stronger terms. Colonel Barnewall, our political agent at Kattywar, stated in his evidence—"it is the most difficult thing in the world to prevent our protection from being abused;"—and Mr. Jenkins, British Resident at the court of Nagpore, said, "our support has given cover to oppressions and extortions, which, probably under other circumstances, would have provoked a rebellion." Finally, Colonel Munro, who appeared as an advocate of the system, distinctly confessed, "that the subsidiary system is calculated to occasion misgovernment and oppression of the inhabitants, unless it is corrected by the influence of the British Resident."

Passing over the military and financial questions connected with the disposition of the army, let us cast a glance at the position of the British Resident. The native prince is king, and the Resident is viceroy over him; this functionary exercises his authority at a distance from all control; there is no law to which an appeal can be made against his arbitrary decrees—no process by which redress can be obtained. Every one acquainted with Indian affairs has heard of the extravagances committed by a late Resident at one of the native courts. On the other hand, many, very many examples could be quoted of admirable conduct on the part of the British Residents, and of benefits resulting from their interference—but these are really indifferent to the issue; the objection to the system is, that it confers immense power with only a shadow of responsibility, and that it places the British government in the irritating dilemma of supporting tyranny or sanctioning revolt.

Lord W. Bentinck's administration was principally remarkable for a series of financial reforms in every department of the government—indeed, it is principally owing to the fearlessness with which he carried out his measures of economy, that India is enabled to meet the charge imposed upon the country for paying the proprietors of East India stock at the late renewal of the charter.

From what we have already said, it clearly appears that the question of patronage has, from the very outset, originated the most perplexing difficulties and disputes which have arisen between the Court of Directors, the Crown, and the local governments. There is a vast mass of evidence spread over the various parliamentary reports, proving that the Company has not perfectly secured the obedience and the responsibility of its servants, whether civil or military: to use a very mild term, delinquencies have been winked at, which in other governments would hardly have escaped severe punishment. It was a common jest with officers of the royal army in India, that the sentences of the Company courts martial were, "whipping with a straw." Various palliatives have been suggested for this evil, but no one ventures to strike at its root—the irresponsible power of appointment possessed by the Court of Directors and its individual members. In the Commons Report of 1832, we find the evil confessed, and an apology made for it, which could scarcely be received with gravity in any country but England.

"No public responsibility attaches to the patronage of the Directors, nor do the tests prescribed operate upon the exercise of it, any more than the desirableness of attaining competent persons operates upon the disposal of patronage in the government offices in this country. Public opinion is said to have as little influence in the one case as in the other."

We long ago showed that great benefit would result by bestowing a few writerships as rewards for the cultivation of oriental literature in this

country; we are glad to find that the subject has engaged the attention of the Court of Directors, for Mr. Auber informs us that there is a general anxiety in that body to substitute a system of public examinations for the present course of instruction at Haylebury;—let the power of sending up a limited number of candidates be extended to the universities and some of our great schools, and no future House of Commons will have reason to record that the mode of appointment “gives to India only an average amount of talent, or one but a little above mediocrity.”

Mr. Auber promises to continue this work, and examine the existing system in connexion with the internal administration of India: such a volume, fairly executed, would be one of incalculable value; but the author must abandon habits of indiscriminate eulogy, and reprobate instead of extenuating error. In one great object he has succeeded—he has shown that the lust of conquest was not the cause of the extension of the Company's dominions, and that almost every departure from the pacific system was caused by the ambition and the perfidy of native Indian powers; but he has not shown a system, or anything like a system, for consolidating these dominions, and securing them against aggression, by developing their internal resources, and winning from the inhabitants a reasonable allegiance founded upon gratitude for experienced protection and acknowledged benefits. Until such a policy guide every act of British rule in India, the extension of our dominions is an increase of their danger; the wider it spreads, the more vulnerable it becomes. Mr. Grant has justly observed, “it was the unwieldiness of the Mogul Empire that accelerated its fall: the loss of distant provinces being the rise of new enemies and loss of reputation also.”

Private Correspondence of the Duchess of Marlborough. 2 vols. Colburn.

ALTHOUGH all the important facts contained in these volumes were long since made known to the public, first passionately by the Duchess in her celebrated Vindication pamphlet, and subsequently and soberly in Coxe's ‘Life of the Duke of Marlborough;’ still these original letters are not without interest, for they lay bare to us the heart and mind of that extraordinary woman, who, at a crisis among the most celebrated in our annals, was virtually the prime minister of England. It is well known that Godolphin and Marlborough were brought over to Whig principles and retained in them by the influence of the Duchess—that to her power over the mind of the Queen was owing the continuance of, the administration which raised England to the pinnacle of glory—and that the decline of that influence enabled Harley and St. John to stain our annals with the treaty of Utrecht. The Duke appears almost to have worshipped his wife; in the middle of the campaign of 1706 he writes, “I wish with all my heart that happy time were come that we might be quiet at Woodstock;” and again in 1708, “I had rather live a quiet life with your love and kindness than with the most ambitious employment any prince can give”—expressions inconsistent with the often-repeated story of Marlborough's complaining of the subjection in which he was held by her.

The impolitic conduct of the Duchess towards the Queen personally, by which ultimately she lost her influence, is also well known. The truth is, that from the first the Duchess saw clearly the stolid, stubborn incapacity of Anne, and humoured or lectured her like a child, according to circumstances: this is manifest enough in the few letters which remain to us, and even in the

grand scene of their final leave-taking—the Duchess in tears, tears of passionate disappointment perhaps, though not unmingled with something of natural sorrow, and the sullen, sulky Queen, with her cuckoo-cry of fear, evidently not daring to enter into an explanation,—a scene that would have been laughable, had not great national interests been dependent on the issue.

This Correspondence, as a whole, contains a pretty full commentary on the principal events in the reign of Anne, but to us the most interesting part is ‘The Character of her Contemporaries,’ written by the Duchess, and ‘Her Opinions,’ which are said to be extracts from her letters to Lord Stair, and reprinted from a very rare little volume privately circulated in 1788 by Lord Hailes. From the latter we shall make a few extracts:—

“I have made a settlement of a very great estate that is in my own power, upon my grandson, John Spencer, and his sons; but they are all to forfeit it if any of them shall ever accept any employment, military or civil, or any pension from any King or Queen of this realm, and the estate is to go to others in the entail. This I think ought to please everybody; for it will secure my heirs in being very considerable men. None of them can put on a fool's coat, and take posts from soldiers of experience and service, who never did anything but kill pheasants and partridges. Their heirs may do great service to their country, and ought to be well received when they go to court, since they will have nothing to ask; for I would have them join with any King or minister when they desire nothing but what is for the good of the nation and the King, who in truth must always have the same interest.”

“Were I a man, I freely own that I would not venture anything that I could avoid for any King that I know, or that I have heard of. As princes are not the best judges of right and wrong, from the flattery they are used to, not to say worse of them, I think the best thing for them, and the whole nation, is not to let them have power to hurt themselves, or anybody else.”

“I am of opinion, from woful experience, that, from flattery or want of understanding, most princes are alike; and therefore it is to no purpose to argue against their passions, but to defend ourselves at all events against them. This makes me think of the Castile oath, ‘We, that are as good as yourself, and more powerful, chose you to be our King, upon such conditions;’ and concludes with what is most just and proper.”

“I am, and shall ever be, of the opinion, that nothing is so much worth struggling for as liberty; and I have given demonstration, that in all times I have done everything in my poor power that could contribute towards that happy condition; and I will continue to do so as long as I live. But, alas! what can it signify, the endeavours of an old woman.”

“It is impossible that one of my age and infirmities can live long: and one great happiness there is in death, that one shall never hear any more of anything they do in this world.”

“Both parties find fault with each other: and for my own part, I believe them both to blame in many things; but surely the Tories are the worst, and have always done the most mischief. I believe there is many knaves amongst them, but 'tis certain the majority of them are fools; and the principles that they profess are both foolish and false. Many of the Whigs must be allowed to have sense, and to be much more capable of managing a government than Tories. But the majority of them are knaves, and they have shown, when they are in employment, that their chief aim is to keep their places, and raise themselves without any regard to the good of the public.”

Cardinal de Retz.—His history is entertaining, because he has wit and sense; notwithstanding which, I must confess I don't like him much. For, if I were a man, I would not rebel, to have the greatest employment any Prince could give me. But if any tyrant broke the laws, and obliged me to draw the sword, I would never trim nor sheath it till justice was done to my country.”

We see by an advertisement prefixed to these volumes that Memoirs of the Duchess are preparing for publication by Mrs. Thompson.

Jane Lomax, or a Mother's Crime. By the Author of ‘Brambletye House,’ &c. 3 vols. Colburn.

The preface to this novel, which is remarkably well written, led us to expect a far better production than we were destined to meet with. The author says:—

“When the reader learns that the following Tale was written three or four years ago, about which period the rage for what are termed Fashionable Novels had reached its culminating point, he may, perhaps, be surprised to find that its scenes are mostly laid in the unromantic purlieus of Bermondsey and Shad-Thames, and that its characters are entirely chosen from a class which has not been deemed either high enough or low enough to figure in our recent works of fiction. In the generality of these compositions, many of them evincing the highest order of talent, the prominent personages bear sounding titles, maintain large establishments, and move only in the quarters consecrated to our aristocracy; the other actors in the drama being taken from inferior, not to say low, life, and rendered as vulgar and ridiculous as possible, that they may act as foils to their superiors.

“Writers of this school, forgetting that there is an innate vulgarity, quite independent of external observances and forms, and quite as likely, therefore, to be encountered among the peerage as the peasantry, have confined it to certain conventional phrases, personal peculiarities, and domestic usages. Even if this narrow view be not opposed to Nature and to truth, it can hardly be denied that it has a mischievous tendency to widen the breach, where too great a severance and alienation of classes already forms the besetting sin of our social system.”

Now a good vigorous interesting Shad-Thames, or Bermondsey novel, reminding us, through spirited and original sketches of character, pungent conversations, and forcible yet natural clusters of incidents, of the vivid pages of Fielding and Smollett, or the masterly satire distilled out of low life by that spirit refined, the author of ‘The Beggars’ Opera,’ would be worth its weight in gold. But in this, the last production of the author of ‘Brambletye House,’ we have most meagre allowance of character—reasoning dialogues between empty young Redrifle ladies,—a dilution of crime which establishes the fact that a weakness may be obtained beyond the reach of water,—and a profusion of the prettinesses in phrases, which the fashionable Annuals have brought so much into vogue. Mr. Horace Smith beats L. E. L. all round her own garden, and leaves her without a flower to her back; and as for ringlets, eyes, lips, and blushes, the closeness of the packing, and the extent of the load, can only be properly estimated by those who have seen the midnight procession of Turnips and Cabbages up New Street for Covent Garden's Saturday market.

Whether Mr. Horace Smith intended this work for a novel, or for a parody on, or burlesque of a novel, we have our doubts: his sentiment is so sentimental—his serious scenes so filched and rendered turbid—and his middling-life people so swollen with the two opposites, romance and political economy. Perhaps the whole is a quiz, a sort of prose Rejected Address, in which, while we think we are reading “a true thing,” we are swindled by a parody. If the writer be in earnest, he is woefully in the wrong; and if he be in joke, he has lost much of the power he possessed when he wrote his part of the ‘Rejected Addresses.’

We have been amused at an observation made by some acute, though penless critic, who was anxious to testify the high sense he entertained of John Kemble's preternatural performance of

Macbeth, in which the weight of fate seemed to stupify his senses and make him as it were stagger through life, a victim to supernatural solicitings—that every other actor made you feel that he had seen grotesque old women, and not witches; that he was much perplexed; but had no charmed life; that, in short, he was nothing but a middle-aged Scotch gentleman in difficulties. Mr. Horace Smith has realized this criticism—he has taken scenes, incidents, characters, almost words, from Macbeth—banished the plume, the bonnet, the target, and the broad-sword—the lonely glen, the awful witches, all pride, pomp, and circumstance of crime; and in their stead we have wharfs, dry-salting, and lighters; a Bermondsey thane—a Redriff Macduff—and a Wapping Lady Macbeth! We do not think anything so bad can be found even in the blessed neighbourhood in which the scene is laid, and “all long shore there.” But to give some specimen of this vulgarized Macbeth, let us produce the Banquet scene as performed in Bermondsey:—

“Why, ay, there’s some sense in that remark,” replied the sailor; “first, because there’s no better freight than passage-money, and secondly, because a little live lumber of the gentry kind does certainly save one, now and then, from falling asleep, or having the doldrums during a long calm. In that respect, I was unlucky, for I was to have brought home a friend of my own, only he was taken ill just as I was on the point of sailing. I hope he is hearty again by this time, for I don’t know a pleasanter fellow than honest Ned Ruddock.”

“At the mention of this ominous word, the up-lifted wine glass fell with a smash from the hand of Lomax, who suddenly started upon his feet, and, with a look and voice of agonized terror, shouted out, ‘Who? who? what—that name did you mention?’”

“Why, that of my friend, Edward Ruddock. Do you know him? He is coming to England on a very particular business, and I dare say we shall have him in the river by the next ship.”

“The muscles of Lomax’s face and body, which had previously been in a state of violent tension, became rapidly relaxed, a cold perspiration burst from his forehead, his teeth chattered in his head, and he sank with a tremulous spasm into his chair, inarticulately mumbling the word, ‘Lost! lost! lost!’ Presently recovering himself, however, he sprang, as if by a convulsive effort, from his chair, and tottered out of the room, opening and clutching his fingers as he ejaculated, in a hoarse whisper, ‘Ha! the key! the key! the garden gate! the garden gate!’”

“Amazement and consternation were depicted upon the countenances of the visitors, several of whom rose from their chairs; when Mrs. Lomax, whose usual presence of mind did not fail her, exclaimed with a persuasive and courteous smile, ‘Let me entreat you to be composed, and to resume your seats. My poor husband is subject to these attacks.’”

“But why should the mention of Ned Ruddock set him off into such a strange tantrum?” asked the captain.

“He was riding with a deceased friend of that name some years ago, when he was thrown from his horse, a concussion of the brain ensued, and the smallest allusion to that terrible accident invariably brings on one of these distressing fits. Excuse me, my friends, and prythee make yourselves at home during my absence. I will return to you as soon as I have administered to my poor patient one of his usual composing draughts. Mary will do the honours of the table until I re-appear.”

This, we think, is what the printers call “close copy.” But can it, to use the language of Old Peachum, “find a sale at the warehouse in Redriff?”

It will be remembered that the lofty thane shrunk from crime at its chamber door: who can forget his shuddering exclamation—“We will proceed no further in this business”? Mr. Cawdor Fife Lomax has a like relapse. In truth he is a most abandoned and degrading imitator:

“His mind, which had only partially recoiled from the commission of the meditated offence, shrunk in dismay from the contemplation of its consequences; his terrors predominated over his hopes and yearnings; a shudder ran through his whole frame; and, letting the paper fall upon the table, he exclaimed with a faltering voice and averted eyes, for he was afraid to look his wife in the face, ‘Jane, let us go no farther in this dreadful business; take away the will, and replace it—for Heaven’s sake, replace it where you found it! Some devil must have tempted you: the consequences are too frightful—a horrible abyss is yawning at our feet. The gallows! the gallows! My blood runs cold at the very thought. I tremble all over.’”

“Shadows have often made you tremble, while I have stood undaunted in the midst of real dangers. Are you not ashamed of yourself?”

The last line, in italics, is the great “Are you a man!” done in very choice Bermondsey.

With a specimen of the moralizing style we must hasten to a conclusion:—

“I thought so at first,” blushed Rose. “The wharf and its concomitants, together with the whole noisy and bustling vicinity, appeared to me terribly prosaic—pardon me, dear Helen, for using that word, it is expressive to my mind, whatever it may appear to yours—but a short experience has convinced me that there are few scenes or elements, however unpromising, out of which, with the help of a little imagination, we may not extract something poetical and romantic. Objects naturally unlovely, or even repulsive, may be made morally picturesque if we do but place them in a new light, or operate upon them with our mental alchemy. The irresistible and yet obedient river, for instance, that runs, not unmusically beneath our windows, and which I have heard stigmatized as a mass of muddy and offensive waters, how does it become elevated in our minds when we view it as the medium of communication between the most distant nations, and consequently as one of the great civilizers of the world: as a silent, dustless road, which, regularly rising and falling, flowing backwards and forwards, receives no reparation, and yet remains for ever the same; a road so soft that we can plunge our bodies into its depths, and over which, nevertheless, weights that would crush a solid rock are drawn by the winged coursers of the air, or impelled at full speed by an impalpable vapour.”

“The Thames is an enchanted mirror, each of whose myriad reflections is a copious history. Oh, if we could but translate the whispers of the waves as they murmur to one another beneath our balcony, what materials would they furnish forth for a whole world of thought! What wonders could they reveal to us of the vast and mysterious deep! They have been the playthings, perchance, of unknown monsters in the fathomless caverns of the Pacific, or spouted into the air by the Northern whale.”

“What a beautiful, what a gifted creature!” cried Hunter, in an impassioned voice. “She has all the loveliness, and more than all the talent, of a Grecian Pythoness, for her’s is the inspiration of genius.”

The Grecian Pythoness of Tooley Street, and farther “down East,” is a little strong. Henceforth, the land of the Tanners will be classic ground.

In our course through these remarkable volumes we have jotted down a few of the words pressed into the English service, which we apprehend will require considerable exercise before they can be looked upon as regulars:—recency, crumby, selfist, vilipended, sublimized, disparted, sedulity, ineradicable, vindicable, angrier, &c. We must, too, observe that there is a singular error at the end of the first volume, in the description of Mr. Macbeth Lomax, senior, going to Doctors’ Commons, “as soon as the clerks had taken their respective stations at the Will Office” (p. 295), to obtain a copy of a will. He hurries there in his carriage—has a scene with the clerks—and on his return is startled with a crowd, and a view of a Greenacre process at the Old Bailey. Now, as an execution is

invariably over at nine o’clock, A.M., it is quite clear that the Wills Office must have had its desks clerk-haunted before eight o’clock in the morning, an unknown hour at all public offices except the Post Office.

Mr. Horace Smith has been a most agreeable humorist in verse, and a very industrious and honest writer in prose; but the production now before us will assuredly affect his interests with the circulating libraries and with the idle hungry race of modern novel readers.

MEDICAL WORKS.

The Nature and Treatment of the Diseases of the Heart, by James Wardrop, M.D.—To the professional portion of our readers, Dr. Wardrop’s name will be sufficiently attractive to ensure attention, and to professional men alone is this work addressed. There are few doctrines less open to the scrutiny of general inquirers, than those which form the debatable ground of physiology: and we question very much whether the points brought forward on the present occasion will be accessible, even to the ordinary run of practitioners. We may be permitted, however, to notice what appears to us an error of reasoning, which more or less pervades the volume. This is best shown by an instance. The Doctor’s main position is, that the pressure of the muscles during their action, by hastening the venous and impeding the arterial circulation, energizes the heart, and, through that organ, the brain.—“No more satisfactory illustration (he says) can be indeed given of the office of the muscles in modifying the circulation of the blood, or of the musculo-cardiac function, than by glancing over the development of those phenomena which may be observed in a living being, at the moment of awaking from sleep, and by reviewing the various functions successively as they are evolved.—The first indication of a person passing from sleep into a state of wakefulness, is some movement of the body. He changes the posture in which he has been slumbering: the limbs begin to move, and, almost at the same moment, and just when he is becoming conscious of existence, the muscles of the extremities are thrown into contraction; he stretches the limbs and yawns, and, finally, the intellectual powers awake! * * All these muscular movements can, indeed, be satisfactorily explained by contemplating the effects on the circulation, which as I have endeavoured to demonstrate, are produced by muscular contractions.—The almost instantaneous effect of a person stretching the limbs whilst awaking from slumber, is that of rousing the powers of the mind, and this arises from an accumulation of blood in the heart, which such motions necessarily create, and which, by increasing its action, enables it to propel an additional quantity to the head.—Scarcely has a man awoke, and the brain received this additional quantity of blood, ere the mental powers are resuscitated, and having been refreshed by ‘balmy sleep,’ they almost immediately resume their wonted vigour!”—Here the author, assuming that the waking brain requires a greater functional activity than is necessary to the organ during sleep, proceeds to show how the increase is produced, by the first efforts at muscular action which accompany the act of awaking. It must be obvious to the reader, that in these remarks there is involved a vicious circle. The muscular movement is made necessary to excite the brain to wakefulness, while the wakefulness is necessary to admit of the muscular action. From this circle, it is true, we may escape, by dissolving the immediate nature of the connexion, and reducing the consequences to a question of degree; but in proportion as we admit such a solution of the difficulty, in that proportion do we invalidate the whole chain of inference. Either the connexion is essential, or it is not; and, if not, the inference is mere *lana caprina*. Physiologists, in general, have attributed the yawning and stretching which accompanies the act of awaking, to an accumulation of vital power in the muscles, which is accompanied by an uneasy sensation; but it is necessary that the party should already be partially awake, before this uneasiness could be felt: therefore, on the Doctor’s supposition, the effect precedes the cause. The mistake, as it seems to us, flows from the more general error of a

fondness for final causes. Certain conditions are found to be attended with certain concomitants; and these cannot be allowed to be present for nothing: we look out, therefore, for an utility, and press the phenomena into its service. In point of fact, we not only awaken very frequently without the occurrence of these muscular movements, but we sometimes make very violent movements, during sleep without the brain being thereby aroused to consciousness; so that, without Dr. Wardrop had better arguments at his service, his whole reasoning would fall to the ground. There is, indeed, no more fertile source of fallacy, than in these final causes, and in the inferences from anatomy to physiology, by which they are supported.

The Nature and Treatment of Diseases of the Ear, by Dr. W. Kramer: translated from the German, by J. R. Bennett, M.D.—This rather striking treatise, in which the criticism belongs far more to the manner of "slashing Bentley," than to that of his rhyme-fellow, "Theobalds," will probably excite some recriminatory remark. Upon our English aurists, in particular, the author has fallen foul, with a severity of remark, that has not spared the highest names. In this disagreement of doctors, it is no part of the *Athenæum* to decide; but we may be permitted to say, that the good German's general remarks, and the gross quackery of ear-doctoring, "harp our fears aright;" and that we are satisfied that great names, in this branch of the profession more especially, are not always the best guarantees for great deeds. It is not our custom to enter very deeply into professional details, and we shall, in this instance go out of our track no further than to notice that Dr. Kramer, by attempting a more scientific classification of his subject, has made a considerable step towards relieving the treatment of ear disease from the heavy opprobrium under which it has so long lain. Ear-doctor and eye-doctor, are terms very usually employed in the same sense as locksmith and anchorman, implying that the diseases of these organs are one, as a lock is one thing, or an anchor one; and the consequence, that this medicine is good for the ears, and that is good for the eyes, "follows as readily as a borrower's cap:" whereas, in truth, every specific disease of these organs has its specific seat, cause, physiologic and pathologic peculiarities, referable to the general laws of the economy, and involving as recondite science as a fever or consumption. This sort of prejudice Dr. Kramer has met by a sweeping condemnation. The work is strictly professional, and it affords another instance of the cultivated condition of the scientific mind in Germany, and of the necessity that is there felt of depending for success on something more than a confident brow and a routine practice. After this acknowledgment, we presume that none of our suffering friends will be tempted to look into it in search of a short cut or royal road to the cure of their malady.

Compendium of Lithotripsy, by Henry Belimaye, Esq.—Hard words, it must be admitted, have their purpose, and answer it tolerably well; "else wherefore breathe they in a christian land?" But, like every other good thing, they have their compensating disadvantages: among these stands pre-eminent their forbidding aspect. Who, for instance, not being of the initiated, would suppose that the ill-looking tetrasyllable which figures in the title standing at the head of this article, covers one of the most interesting speculations, worked into practical utility by a series of mechanical inventions, the most ingenious and delicate, that have graced the science and civilization of the age in which we live? Such, however, is the case. It is now many years since we were favoured with an inspection of the Baron de Heurleoup's instruments, and heard, from the lips of the inventor, the detail of difficulties conquered, and disappointments patiently endured, in their progressive improvement: but the mingled impression of admiration at the boldness of the idea, surprise at the ingenuity with which it was carried into execution, and grateful delight at the vast benefit bestowed on the species, still remains unchanged and undiminished. In the volume before us we are presented with the history of the invention,—from the first rude attempt, to its last perfection, interspersed with a series of wood-cuts, which represent the successive apparatus adopted in its progress, and are so well

contrived and executed, as almost to supersede the necessity of the letter-press. The account however is clear, and the statements modest, and apparently governed by a due sense of justice towards the several rivals, who have taken a part in perfecting the apparatus. We think, however, that the author, by adopting a tone of querulousness, has lessened, rather than increased the fame of the discovery, by giving an impression of doubt to that which, in itself, is as certain as anything connected with the mixed facts of surgical science can be. True it is, that there are still cases not reached by the new method of treatment; and that accidents inevitable may once in a way attend the operation; but these no more detract from its acknowledged superiority, than the occasional failures of the vaccine would justify a recurrence to small-pox inoculation.

Medical Science and Ethics, an Introductory Lecture, &c. by W. O. Porter, M.D.—This is a somewhat ambitious title for an opening lecture,—a composition which is, by universal consent, allowed to deal in common-places. Measured against its avowed object, and considered as being addressed to an audience just escaped from their schoolmasters, the lecture is a sufficient lecture, but no more: and we do not perceive the necessity for giving it a wider circulation.

Trelawny of Trelawne: or, the Prophecy; a Legend of Cornwall. By Mrs. Bray. 3 vols. Longman & Co.

THERE is much curious local tradition contained in this novel, the materials of which were collected by Mrs. Bray, in one of her topographical and antiquarian rambles; there is something, too, of variety and nature in the distribution and working out of its characters, something of delicate and passionate feeling in the love-story which is its main-thread; and its faults are obvious—the more so, because the authoress has chosen to assume the epistolary form in her work—the grace, the ease, above all, the condensation are wanting, which enable a first-rate romancer to ransack the mouldy arks, cabinets, and charter-rolls of bygone days, and to reproduce their contents, in a spirited and characteristic form, without weariness to the reader. Too frequently in letters devoted to stirring events and deep emotions, the recital of which ought not to be interrupted—and would not, in a real correspondence—Mrs. Bray digresses to some extraneous description, which is read like a leaf from her own journals of yesterday—too frequently, when she keeps closer to the colour and costume of ancient times, and to the events of her story, she falls into the error shared by Mr. Leigh Hunt, in his 'Sir Ralph Esmer,' and is minute on little matters, which her imaginary correspondents themselves would never have noted. Good Dr. Ruddell's letters we like the best: because his character, as an absent and antiquarian pastor, permits him to be prosy, and somewhat unobservant of the proprieties of tact and opportunity, without our feeling such prosiness wearisome. After these, we prefer the lively letters of Rebecca Trelawny, somewhat heartless though she seem in her constancy to new modes and London gaieties, and her shadow John Buller, in spite of family afflictions, and, above all, the distresses of a dear sister. These are caused by parental opposition to a marriage between Letitia Trelawny and her cousin, on the strength of an ancient curse (the legend of which is the most vivid passage in the book): in consequence of which, the rejected cousin becomes involved in the Monmouth plot, and the heroine's father, Bishop Trelawny, in attempting to save his nephew's life, falls under the suspicion of Father Petre, and is afterwards included among those sent to the Tower, by the stern, priest-ridden husband of Anne Hyde, and protector of the Countess of Dorchester. Add to this, that we have a tradition of a haunted field, not invented by Mrs. Bray, with a spectre laid by good Dr. Ruddell: a group of

smugglers and malcontents, and Harry Trelawny's rival, Sir Francis Beaumont, who is at once, an arch plotter, an arrogant suitor, and "an uncle cruel and bold" to a lost child, who is heir to a rich baronetcy: and a wise man, Daniel Gumbbe, who checks Sir Francis Beaumont, and works to produce the catastrophe of the tale: and we know not how better to give our readers an idea of the nature of 'Trelawny of Trelawne.' As regards its merits, we may add, that the interest certainly grew upon us, as we proceeded in its perusal.

Sporting. Edited by Nimrod.

[Second Notice.]

WE could not find room in our former number for *The Ass Race*; yet it is so seldom that we get sight of Mr. Hood, except in his Annual volume, that we are disposed to welcome and make the most of him. Ass-racing, Mr. Hood maintains, with a wonderful display of learning and research, is what Audrey would call the only "true thing;" and however shocked the editor of 'Sporting' may be to hear it, that—

"His great namesake, the first mighty hunter on record, rode to cover—if he did not use Shank's naggie—on a clever Jack, instead of a clever hack; and threw his leathers—if he wore leathers—across an animal, called (out of delicacy, I will use asterisks) ***. Such, however, was the case. In the ancient Egyptian sculptures, we find no trace of a mounted cavalier, though ass-men and mule-men both occur; from which we may fairly infer, that the use of the horse for riding was unknown. The employment of the ass for the same purpose, at a very remote period, is, on the contrary, certified by the evidence of Scripture. It is expressly stated, that Abraham 'saddled his ass,' preparatory to his journey with Isaac to the mount of sacrifice: whereas, the 'horse and his rider' make their first appearance among the host of Pharaoh, at the passage of the Red Sea. It is also remarkable, that the ass is mentioned in the Tenth commandment, as a property likely to be coveted, whilst the horse is passed over in silence: and, again, it is twice named, with the same omission of the nobler animal, in the enumeration of the possessions of Abraham. 'He had sheep,' we are told, 'and oxen, and he-asses, and men-servants, and maid-servants, and she-asses, and camels.' It may safely be assumed, then, that in the patriarchal times, the animal in question had the call of the horse, though he now has nothing but a bray.

"The primitive ass was, however, a very superior creature to the degraded, degenerated brute, the Jack-of-all-trades we now see on commons, about the streets, or, as the Scotch would call it, ganging his lane; that is to say, in a lane with a gang of gypsies. He has lost caste; he is a *pariah*—a despised, forlorn drudge, without rest to the sole of his foot; a proverb and a byword, with 'suffering for the badge of all his tribe,'—in short, the Jew amongst quadrupeds. Yet, formerly, he was High and Jack, as he is now Low and Jack, in the game of All-fours. We must not take our notion of him from such shaggy Urss-minors as Morland delighted to paint; or the like of those which Gainsborough has depicted in the plate annexed to this article; no, nor even from Number Forty-seven, 'the beautiful zebra' which had the honour of carrying Mrs. Trollope at Ems. The ancient ass was a noble animal, second only to the horse; a nob, so to speak, and not a snob. Instead of toiling under sacks of scouring-sand, he scoured the desert himself, free and wild as those early Sandemanians the Arabians; and quaffed at will at its watering-places, without the dread of a back-fair of fat and forty oppressing his lumbar processes. When he did lend a back, it was to princes and rulers of the people. 'Speak,' exclaims Deborah, 'speak, ye that ride on white asses, ye that sit in judgment.'

From riding to racing, says Mr. Hood, is but a stride, though "at what particular date it was introduced, is involved in obscurity; but there is good ground for placing it, as the donkey rider seats himself, very far back." The passion, indeed, is innate and universal. "Birds, as well

as beasts, and even of vermin, have been employed for its gratification. Races of ostriches and camels are recorded by eastern travellers; and, if my classical reminiscences be correct, there have been swimming matches between tame fish. Coursing is, as the name implies, only a race by dogs; and the air has been made a race course, as well as a course of post, for carrier-pigeons. * * The propensity has even been attributed, in terms, to things inanimate: thus we hear of a mill-race; a particular rapid in the Channel is called the Race of Portland, and a certain point of land is named the Start."

Mr. Hood is, indeed, of opinion, that to the ancient sportsman, "a race with an ass was as common as a run with a jack to a modern troller;" that the *Assarium* was so called from being the coin most current on the ass-course, although he admits that historians are particularly meagre on this subject: all, indeed, that "we know with certainty is from Euclid, that there was a Pons Asinorum, or ass's bridge, for every donkey to get over at the beginning of the course."

Fortunately, when we approach our own times, and pursue the inquiry on English ground, a light breaks in upon us.

* If we allow any weight to etymology, and surely to mature a science ought to carry more than a feather, we must give in to the irresistible conviction that two of our principal race-grounds were originally devoted to asinine contests. Nor is there occasion for any such torturing Procrustean process as that by which some of our antiquarians have docked, or let out syllables, or topsy-turvy'd them altogether, to suit a theory of their own. The simple doubling of a consonant in one case—or its restoration rather, for as people 'drop a line' they may easily drop a letter—and a very moderate allowance for popular verbal corruption in the other, will suffice to lead to the above conclusion. It is only necessary to read *Assot* for *Ascot*, and to restore Donkey-stir from *Don-ester*, to obtain at once two names of striking significance as to the original purposes of those celebrated localities. * * Indeed, there is collateral evidence to support as clear a case, perhaps, as was ever established by etymological deduction. For instance, the mere substitution of one vowel for another will give us *Jackey* club in lieu of *Jockey* club; the word *easy*, implying a *trial of metal*, speaks decidedly to the point; and as for the Judge of *Assize*, that functionary, in pronouncing on human necks, at his present post, has clearly bolted out of his course.

* Taking for granted, then, that what are now called Meetings were formerly *Assemblies*, there is room, in the absence of circumstantial information, for much curious speculation. The antiquities of sporting, in truth, present a wide field which has never been thoroughly beaten; and as regards assem- bling, it has evidently never been drawn at all. It would be interesting to learn who were the most distinguished patrons, long long years ago, of the Thistle Stakes, or the Bray Stakes, or whatever else they might be christened—what was the extent of their studs,—and which were the favourite breeds. A few well attested pedigrees would be valuable documents; a list of nominations could not but be a treat; but a card of the running asses, with the colours of the riders, would be a prize indeed! The following particulars would also be worth knowing. Imprimis: The maximum price of a crack. How the animal was trimmed—if cropped, nicked, or docked,—and what was the fashion of a blood tail. If he showed at the Warren; and, considering his native stubbornness, whether he was brought to the post, or the post was brought to him. In what manner he was started—whether with the Shakspearian, 'Away, away, you are an ass!'—or by a simple 'Go it, Ned!' The amount of stakes; and the penalty for crossing and jostling. The scale of weights—probably extending to hundredweights, as the animal is known to live to a century,—and when he was considered aged. If 'Jack and Jill ran up the hill' at Epsom, indiscriminately, or there were separate days for the sexes. In how many minutes they ran the D. M. or Donkey Mile. If the *sweepstakes* were ridden by climbing-boys, and what was the costume—tops or jack boot

—with whips or cudgels. The correct betting phraseology—for instance, whether a favourite was backed against the *field* or against the *common*—in short, a thousand little particulars which will naturally suggest themselves to a sportsman disposed to try back on the subject."

On the strength of his own case, Mr. Hood proposes to revive this ancient sport. All the admitted evils of racing, he says, are thought to be more than counterbalanced by its tendency to improve the breed of horses. Now, where can we find an animal offering more room for improvement, either in form or pace, than the Ass? We must not judge of what the ass was, or may become, by what he is.

"A distinguished naturalist, indeed, in treating of the mule, has mentioned 'a race between a horse and an ass,' but, unfortunately, without stating which was the winner. Nor would it be safe to decide upon conjecture—an ass, it must be remembered, takes a great deal of beating. Pace, however, ought not to be the sole consideration. To some sportsmen, the speed of greased lightning, *in vacuo*, seems to be a desideratum; they would fain have fliers, that only Cowley's Post-Angel could jockey: but, perhaps, as much swiftness as is desirable or possible is already attained; and as far as the improvement of the breed is concerned, these great horse exhibitions might be abandoned, as his Grace of Bedford gave up the cattle-show, when oxen were fat enough. To a large class, indeed,—the spectators—the pace is already too good. I have heard a foreigner complain, at Epsom, that the race was over whilst he was wiping and putting on his spectacles."

The comparative certainty, too, of fair play in ass-racing, is another strong recommendation.

* The notorious tricks practised on the race-horse, have before now disgusted the patrons of racing; nay, driven some of them from the turf; whilst the tender constitution of the animal, the susceptibility of his lungs, and the ticklishness of his legs and feet, are enough of themselves to keep a backer in the state of a Margate packet, with its sixty-horse power of vibration. What an awful sound is the cough of a colt to his supporter, who knows too well, in spite of all the old women, that putting the colt's foot in its own mouth will not cure it! The noise of a roarer is as terrific to him as the voice of a lion; and a little high-blowing acts on his nervous system precisely as it does on the leaves of an aspen. With what enviable serenity, on the contrary, may a gentleman 'keep watch o'er the life of poor Jack!' Bating *assnick*, as some call it, he is as safe as the Bank. His life is what Mr. P. Farren, a great authority on assurance, would emphatically pronounce a good one. He is as hard as nails. He will bolt a Scotch thistle, nay, a bundle of nettles with a hedgehog amongst them, without a wheeze; and as to colds, a laundress might rough-dry the monthly wash of a ladies' boarding-school on his loins. * * The 'Exclusive' spirit of the patrons of such genteel things as the Drawing-room stakes, would be sure to set itself against the introduction of the ass on the course. He has, unfortunately, the character of being low and underbred; and, accordingly, ranks with the 'unwashed' of the human species.—It would be well, however, to remind such aristocratic personages, that though now an *Emigré*, and under a cloud, the quadruped in question, under the most ancient régime in the world, belonged to the animal noblesse, the steed being, in comparison, but a *parvenu*. The regular record of his paternal ancestry, as well as of his maternal Jenny-alogy, is indeed not extant; but the circumstance only proves—and many human commoners might console themselves with the same inference,—that his family is older than the Herald's College. That it was a highly distinguished one, is vouched for by the historical facts, that his name has been worn by monarchs and princes, as a title of honour. Hamor, the cognomen of a Hivite noble, signifies an Ass; Mirvan, the last Khalif of the Om-miades, was surnamed Hemar, after the same animal; and Baharam, King of Persia, bore also the addition of Jowr, or the Wild Ass. A stud-master ought not to lose sight of these sponsorships in naming his stock; for the reciprocity principle would justify his adoption of even regal titles. There is reason, indeed, to believe, that the modern appellation of

Donkey was derived from a certain Don John, Prince of Asturias, afterwards familiarized as Don Jackey, and thence, by abbreviation, Donkey. * * The first experiment might then be safely and quietly made at any of those sea-side resorts, where, sanctioned by fashion, the *coastermonger* rides, as unabashed as a *coastermonger*, on an ass. By favour of the proverbial dulness of watering-places, the establishment of Donkey-races would, probably, be hailed as a public benefit; as not only extending the range of amusements, but also promoting health, by supplying a new racing, bracing, pastime, in the open air. Moreover, the spirit of speculation, or gambling, if it must be called so, would turn with alacrity from the eternal raffle, and backing a mere numeral, to taking the odds against a sleek, well-bred, high-conditioned favourite; while the ladies, at least, would be well content to see the chance determined by the skillful, perhaps graceful, riding of a good-looking gentleman-owner, in smart tops and leathers, a handsome zebra-silk jacket, and jockey-cap. The public mind thus prepared, at Margate or Ramsgate, for the novelty, the next step would be Brighton, where by proper management, the stewards of the course might be coaxed to admit a Long-Ear stakes, by way of *entremet*, amongst the *vol-au-vents* of their bill of fare. Such an 'infusion of new blood' would perhaps tend to give interest even to a good day's sport; but it might be booked to enliven a dull one, for, at any rate, an ass-race would be as attractive as one of those matches, between fifth and sixth-rate horses, which country gentlemen are so apt to get up over a bottle of *slow-juice*. It could not fail to produce what might be called jockey-larity."

We now leave this subject to the consideration of the reader and the members of the "Jackey Club."

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

The Jerusalem Delivered of Torquato Tasso, translated by J. R. Broadhead, Esq.—Poor Tasso has, by common consent, been taken as the type and standard of the miseries of poethood; and certainly not without reason. Much, however, as he suffered in the flesh, the persecutions of fate have, in his case, reached even beyond the grave; and if an injured spirit can look down upon the world it has left, and feel an interest in its concerns, the outrages on the spirit must be not less galling than those of the man. No poet perhaps has been more the victim of partial and unjust judgments, and of stupid antitheses. More nonsense has been expended in arranging his place with respect to Ariosto, and in comparing the incomparable, than would drive any ghost of ordinary patience mad; to say nothing of the Voltairian outcry against the "*éclatant de Tasse*." Then, in the way of translators, if a ghost could die, Tasso's must have expired over Mr. Hoole, even with Fairfax at hand to console him; and now here comes Mr. Broadhead, with his literal deed "into English," which, like that other assassination of Macbeth's, is, indeed, "a deed without a name." To be serious, however,—which we almost suspect the translator is not,—we earnestly recommend him to call in the entire impression of his work, and, as far as in him lies, to prevent the evidence of his very great mistake from getting abroad.

The Naval Keepsake, containing the Life of Nelson, revised and illustrated, with original Anecdotes, Notes, &c. by the "Old Sailor."—We should have supposed that Dr. Southey's admirable and standard biography of the hero of Trafalgar precluded the necessity of a work like the present; especially since it has been given to the public in a cheap and popular form in the Family Library. The "Old Sailor," however, aims, we suppose, at another class of readers, seeking to hit the taste of those to whom a rough anecdotal and plain-speaking record may be more welcome than the beautifully simple style of the Laurrent. His work, as far as we have examined it, seems well done with reference to such a purpose, and the volume is strongly bound, neatly printed, and is illustrated with autographs, outline sketches of sea-fights, &c.

Essays and Correspondence of the late John Walker, edited by W. Burton: 2 vols.—Mr. Walker was for many years a clergyman of the Established Church, and a Fellow of the Dublin University, in which he

was distinguished by his classical and logical acquirements. When his conscientious scruples prevented him from continuing any longer in the Church of England, he resigned his fellowship, and became the head of a congregation long known by his name. The greater part of these volumes is devoted to the explanation and defence of his peculiar doctrines: we cannot, of course, enter upon their examination, but we cheerfully bear testimony to the tolerant and charitable spirit in which the author discusses controverted topics. We should have been more pleased to see a collection of Mr. Walker's classical illustrations, which are scattered through a variety of periodicals, most of which are forgotten, and a republication of his 'Philosophy of Arithmetic,' which is certainly one of the most scientific treatises on the subject, which has been published in our language.

The Satires and Epistles of Horace, interpreted by David Hunter, Esq.—Were we called on to write an essay on Horace, and on how he should be translated, we might fill a very respectably-sized octavo, without exhausting the matter; and had we ample scope and verge enough for the occasion, we might perhaps indulge in the attempt, "for the love we bear his house." But as, in the *Athenæum*, brevity, if not the soul of wit, is very necessary to the conduct of its business, we must adopt a shorter course. To convey then our opinion on this point in a sentence, we would say, that to constitute a good translation of Horace, it should be all that Mr. Hunter's is not. The wit, the grace, the facility, the sparkle of the original, have wholly escaped him; he has produced what the travestier of Cobbett would call a plain brick and mortar version of the original, and no more. With greater fire of thought, and of style, and a self-contentment less complacent, Mr. Hunter might perhaps have succeeded better upon Juvenal; but with Horace the quality of his mind is less in harmony. He may understand his author, but he certainly does not feel, and therefore cannot adequately render him.

Introductory Lecture delivered before the University of Dublin, by Isaac Butt, Archbishop Whately's Professor of Political Economy.—We have no wish to enter on the subjects suggested even by the title-page of this little pamphlet. We observe from the Education Report, noticed last week, that the very name of Archbishop Whately has become a party shibboleth, while the dabbling with political economy is by many thought tantamount to a practice of the black art. With all considerate kindness, however, for the prejudiced and the passionate, who live out of the atmosphere of party politics must take leave to rejoice in the possession of such a churchman as the enlightened archbishop, and such a university professor as Mr. Butt; and we will further say, without any view to invidious comparison, that the pecuniary liberality of the one, and the science of the other, thus exerted within the walls of the "silent sister," will indirectly prove no contemptible agents in the truly pious work of promoting "glory to God and good-will towards man" in Ireland. This small pamphlet, the publication of which is one of the obligations of the professorship, affords a very favourable demonstration of Mr. Butt's claims to the office, and proves him not only a competent teacher of his science, but a man of considerable intellectual power, a clear and independent thinker. The defence which he makes of political economy against the attacks of one class of its adversaries, though peculiarly adapted to the meridian of Dublin, is not wholly inapplicable to the general condition of the empire. Everywhere within these realms, though their numbers diminish daily, are to be found misguided people, who are persuaded that ignorance is the surest basis on which morality and religion can rest, and who adopt, with another application, the doctrine of the Mohammedans, that "all science which is not in their Koran is damnable, and all that it embraces is superfluous." To this class of persons we would recommend a careful perusal of this introductory lecture. There is also another class of opponents to economical science, whose doctrines, though not more dangerous (for what doctrine can be more dangerous than that which palsies the intellectual faculties of man, and shuts his eyes against the light which Providence has provided for his government?), are still the cause of much practical evil; we mean the declaimers in popular assemblies,

who derive all their arguments from the passions, and denounce the scientific researches of the political economists as attacks on the liberties and happiness of the many: it is not impossible that they may find some observations in the little pamphlet before us apropos to this subject.

The Judgment of the Anglican Church (Posterior to the Reformation) on the Sufficiency of Holy Scripture, &c., by J. F. Russell, S.C.L.—We are informed in the preface that the design of this work is "to set at rest (so far as the decision of the Church of England is concerned) the disputed question of the sufficiency of Scripture and the value of tradition. For this purpose citations respecting these important subjects have been made from the canons, articles, and other formularies which the Anglican Church has, from time to time, authoritatively published. These quotations are copiously illustrated by others from the writings of the distinguished men who were concerned in the composition and promulgation of the above formularies, &c. But it may be urged that the positions contained in the work, are disputed by the majority of the clergy and laity now alive, &c." It must be manifest that this is not a work the merits of which could be beneficially discussed in this paper; we chose therefore only to make mention of it as a vast storehouse of opinions on the subjects discussed.

Krummacker's True Church, John the Baptist, and Issachar.—Krummacker is favourably known in England as a zealous supporter of the evangelical party in Germany against the rationalists and the neologists. In these sermons he displays considerable originality and a power of imagination which sometimes remind us of Coleridge's lay sermons. It would not serve any good purpose to enter upon some of the most disputed questions of biblical criticism, but we must say that in the sermon on Issachar the author indulges in a latitude of interpretation, far, very far, beyond the warrant of his text.

Furneaux's History of Treaties of Peace.—The design of Captain Furneaux, in this volume, is to show that there is no recognized right, in neutral nations, to protect, by their flags, the property of belligerent powers. Fortunately, more than twenty years of peace have deprived this question of the absorbing interest which it once possessed, but it is one that can never be wholly indifferent to a maritime and commercial nation. Captain Furneaux examines every reference made to it, from the Treaty of Westphalia, to our own times, and decides against the claims of the neutrals. Incidentally, his work throws considerable light on the general policy of Europe, and may be safely recommended to those historical students, who have not patience to wade through the ponderous tomes of Dumont and Van Martens: we cannot add that it supersedes the necessity of consulting Mably, for the author has limited himself too strictly to the neutral question in the earlier treaties, and has neglected many points of equal, if not greater importance, in international law.

Hutchison's Essays on Unexplained Phenomena.—Mr. Hutchison's volume is principally designed to evolve and apply the following theory:—"The repulsive force between the homogeneous particles of imponderable bodies (light, caloric, and the electric fluid), extends to all distances." From this principle he derives the nature and cause of the centrifugal force of the planetary bodies, the phenomena connected with the radiation of heat, and the distribution of caloric within and around the earth's surface. He shows that such a theory seems to be legitimately inferred from a very copious induction of varied facts, and he very ingeniously explains those which may seem to have an opposite tendency. We offer no opinion respecting his success, but we deem the theory worthy of investigation. The meeting of the British Association at Newcastle will afford an opportunity of renewing experiments, to ascertain the ratio of the increase of heat as we descend below the earth's surface; and we venture to suggest, that, in all records of such experiments, the elevation of the mouth of the mine above the level of the sea, the geological nature of the strata, and the changes in the direction of the shaft, should be distinctly recorded. The enormous differences in the rate of increment of heat observed in different mines, varying from 22 to 157 feet for 1 degree of Fahrenheit, seem

to prove that there are many modifying causes, which have not yet been made subjects of observation; and that the whole question of central heat remains still in the regions of hypothesis.

Winter, by Robert Mudie.—This volume concludes the series—*Spring, Summer, Autumn*, and now *Winter*. On the whole, they are pleasant volumes, rather awakening than satisfying the mind, which, in our opinion, is the best character that can be given of a work intended for the young.

Sacred Philosophy of the Seasons—*Spring*, by the Rev. Henry Duncan, D.D.—*Autumn*, by the same.—Judging from the title, these ought to be works of much the same class as the preceding—but the Seasons, or rather the discourse relating to the Seasons, appears very like the halfpenny worth of bread in the tavern bill. They contain indeed a good deal of information, but it has no relevancy to the professed subject. The style too is cumbersome, and the moral reflections somewhat too obtrusive, and they not unfrequently degenerate into twaddle.

The Progress of Creation, by Miss M. Roberts.—Pleasingly written, prettily illustrated, and neatly bound; we should, without scruple, have recommended this work as a suitable Christmas present to young persons, had not the writer, in some of her early pages, shown too much of a dogmatical spirit.

Testimonies to the Fertility of Palestine—Life of Maimonides.—Two pamphlets seemingly written to condemn the new Poor Law, the factory system, and the society of people called Quakers. They display more zeal than intelligence, and more bitterness of spirit than either.

The Use of Hot Air in Iron Works.—This is a report made to the French government on a subject which has engaged a large share of the attention of the Mechanical Section of the British Association. It is one of great importance to the iron-masters, but possesses no interest for the general reader.

Logarithmic and Trigonometric Tables.—Convenience of form and accuracy of printing, are all the pretensions that can be made by the publisher of such a work as this; and both seem to have been attained.

From the *Minor Poetry* so liberally laid before us, we best serve the interest of all parties, with the least sacrifice of personal feeling, by an occasional extract where it can be done judiciously. We may mention *The Vestal*, by Henry Verlander, B.A., and *Thamula, the Spirit of Death*, in company, because they both belong to the ornate and correct school—and would seem to have been inspired rather by Young's 'Night Thoughts,' than by the ballad-romances of Percy and Scott—the passionate confessions of Byron—or the deep-thoughted musings of Wordsworth and Coleridge. In both volumes we prefer the fugitive pieces. The following is by Mr. Verlander:—

To E. C. (who died young).

From thy home in the fair skies,
From fields of light
Beyond the ken of mortal eyes,
Spirit! pure and bright!
Look down on me!
From seats immortal, where thou sittest
On starry Bowers—
If our love thou not forgettest
In those sweet bowers—
Look down on me!
Smil'st thou, dear, at these dim eyes?
Dim with tall tears—
Turn'd wishful, upward to thy skies!
Fancy-drawn, thy form appears
In yon blue sea.
And joy'st thou at the life unliv'd?
The thoughts unthought?
The joys unjoy'd? the griefs ungriev'd?
And thy young spirit caught
Hence, to be free?
Love, smiling with broken heart;
Fair falsehood's lie;
Death-beds, where torn affections part;
Blighting poverty—
Unknown to thee!
Ah! unknown the pilgrimage
Stormy and weary.
From bounding childhood up to tottering age,
Cold, grey, and dreary—
Unknown to thee!
Lov'd and loving didst thou live
Mid joy thou madest.
Gently reclined'st thine head at eve:—
Into death fadest!—
Unknown to me!

Britannia's Royal Chieftain, a metrical romance with Edward the First for its hero, would fain make

an impression by luxury of type and gaiety of binding—but the purple and gold are but as a fine garment thrown over a dead body. *The Star Seer*, by William Dearden, is a long legend of astrology, with a high-flown preface, and some notes equally stilted, from which it is difficult to determine whether the writer himself has not a certain faith in the science of the starry heavens. From *The City of the East*, and other Poems, by the author of 'India,' we had marked for selection the last song, but we feared it would perplex the reader to make out how it was to be sung to the air of 'Roy's Wife.' *Mortality; a Poem sung in Solitude*, &c., by T. C. Jones, is a vision in which great words and glaring images are confused with most reasonable hope of extrication or understanding. We have purposely kept to the last this little sixpenny pamphlet—the Rev. W. L. Bowles' *Little Villager's Verse Book*, (second series), being secure of finding in it some tiny gem of real poetry, wherewith to close our notice. All the hymns and poems for children it contains, are excellent in their simplicity: the following is something more:—

Old Man of Ninety.

Old Man, I saw thee in thy garden chair,
Sitting in silence, mid the shrubs and trees
Of thy small cottage croft:—while murmuring bees
Went by, and almost touch'd thy temples bare,
Edg'd with a few flakes of the whitest hair;
And south'd by the faint hum of ebbing seas,
And song of birds, and breath of the young breeze:—
Thus didst thou sit, feeling the summer air
Blow gently,—with a sad decline dejected,
Sinking to earth in hope, but all alone:—
(Oh! hast thou wept to feel the lonely sense
Of earthly loss, musing on voices gone?
Hush the vain murmur that without offence
Thy head may rest in peace beneath the Church-yard stone.

Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, &c.—There are some important works published, and in course of publication, to which it is impossible for us to do justice; and our notice of them, unless the fact be otherwise manifest, must be considered rather as an announcement than a criticism. It would require a whole body of academicians, or a committee chosen from all our learned societies, with not a few additions, to write a full and complete review of an Encyclopædia. We, therefore, can only refer to such works, and record the progress of publication during the past year. The *Encyclopædia Britannica*, then, has arrived at its 91st part, and nearly completed the letter N; the *Penny Cyclopædia* at the 9th volume, in which letter E is almost concluded; and the *Popular Encyclopædia* of Messrs. Blackie & Son, at the 10th part, and letter R; and *The British Cyclopædia of Natural History* is completed in three well-illustrated volumes. There are other works of a like character, to which it is equally difficult to do justice. Of this class is a *Latin Lexicon*, edited by G. P. Leverett, published at Boston (U.S.), and in London by Mr. Kennett. The principal sources from which the work is professedly compiled are, the *Lexicon* of Forcellini, and the *Latin-German Lexicon* of Schiller, a translation of which was some short time since published at Oxford. The work is far more comprehensive than its title might seem to intimate: it was intended by the editor that it should, to a limited extent, serve the purpose of a *Gradus*, and give aid and help in matters of history and antiquity;—in fact, "there seems no reason (says Mr. Leverett), why a dictionary of an ancient language might not, in some measure, assume the form of an encyclopædia," and this appears to have been his object. A work of a like character has lately issued from our own press,—we allude to Riddle's *Latin-English Dictionary*, of which an abridgment has been since published for the use of young scholars. Mr. Riddle is known to the learned world as the translator and editor of Schiller's *Lexicon*. In the progress of that work he became convinced that a judicious abridgment, with certain improvements and adaptations, would constitute a valuable dictionary for the use of colleges and schools; and taking the German abridgment of Lünemann as the basis, he produced the work before us:—his name will be its recommendation. Another very useful and excellent American work, is *Robinson's Greek and English Lexicon of the New Testament*, edited by Dr. Bloomfield. The fact that so expensive a work was thought worthy of republication in this country, is the best testimony that can be adduced in its favour.

List of New Books.—Oliver and Boyd's New Edinburgh Almanack, for 1838, 18mo. 4s. roan lettered.—Lugard's (Dr.) History of England, Vol. V., 8s. cl.—Rodwell's New Scenes for Youth, with Illustrations, sq. 2s. 6d. cl.—The Novel Adventures of Tom Thumb, by Mrs. Barwell, 2s. 6d.—Carpenter's Minstrel Musings, 12mo. 2s. 6d.—Lessons on Shells, new edit. 6s. 6d.—Christian Ladies' Magazine, Vol. VIII., 12mo. 7s.—Memoir of E. H. Simon, 6s. cl.—Peet's Minutiae, 7s. 5s. cl.—Smith on the Miracles, 3s.—Thistlewaite's Sermons, Vol. II., 12mo. 6s.—Maughan's Outlines of Criminal Law, Vol. II., (Public Wrongs), 12mo. 10s.—Paul Preston's Voyages, 16mo. 4s. 6d. hf. bd.—Short Hints on Short Hand, 32mo. 1s. cl.—Pearson's Benefit of Scriptural Education, 12mo. 1s. 6d. cl.—Lawrence's Historical Memoirs of the Queens of England, 8vo. 12s. cl.—Wilson's Analysis of Butler's Analogy, 18mo. 2s. 6d. cl.—Ritter's History of Ancient Philosophy, 2 vols. 8vo. 30s. cl.—Middleton's Life of Cicero, new edit. 1 vol. 8vo. 14s.—Falconer's Voyages, new edit. 18mo. 2s. 6d.—Tennant's Force of Imagination, 12mo. 5s. 6d.—Parley's Tales about Christmas, 16mo. 7s. 6d.—Sherford's Treatise on the Law of Wills, 12mo. 10s. 6d.—Archbold's Practice, by Chitty, 2 vols. cr. 8vo. 24s.—Chitty's Forms of Proceedings, 2 parts, cr. 8vo. 14s.—Halcumb on Passing Private Bills, 8vo. 20s.; Supplement, 7s.—Stuart's Grammar of the New Testament Dialect, 12mo. 7s. 6d.—Hale's Sick Man's Guide, 8vo. 3s.—Draper's Lives of Eminent Youth, 32mo. 2s.—Burdett's Short Stories in Short Words, sq. 1s. 6d.—Rowland Masingham, by Miss Strickland, 12mo. 2s. 6d.—Sketches of Young Gentlemen, by Quiz, 12mo. 2s. 6d.—Howitt's Rural Life in England, 2 vols. post 8vo. 14s.—Private Correspondence of the Duchess of Marlborough, 2 vols. 8vo. 28s.—Stanley's Domestic Ledger, for 1838, sq. 3s. 6d.—Hume, Smollett, and Stebbing's History of England, Vol. III., 18mo. 4s.—Lodge's Peacocks, 1838, 1 vol. 8vo. 14s.—Holder's Familiar Exercises between an Attorney and his Clerk, 12mo. 7s.—Puritt's Gospel Harmony, post 8vo. 5s.—Jerram on Infant Baptism, 6s. 5s.—Whewell's Astronomy and General Physics, (Bridgewater Treatise,) 1 vol. 6s.—Memoirs of Joseph Holt, General of the Irish Rebels, edited by Croker, 2 vols. 8vo. 28s.—Post-Office Directory, for 1838, 12mo. cl. lettered, 5s. 6d.; with Coach Guide, 6s. 6d.—Ware's Scenes and Characters illustrating Christian Truth, 2 vols. 18mo. 7s.

[ADVERTISEMENT]—Now ready, price 12s. THE COMIC ANNAL FOR 1838, by THOMAS HOOD, Esq. London: A. H. Baily & Co. 83, Cornhill.

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FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Paris, December 15.

LAST days are always disagreeable things, with their leave-takings and reckonings of money fooled away. My last days here have been more unpleasant than usual: to leave behind a promise of two quartet soirées by Baillet, and a rumour of the approaching *début* of Mailbran's younger sister at the Grand Opera, is, indeed, a trial to the temper. The highest hopes are entertained concerning this Mademoiselle Garcia: Madame Mailbran having been heard to say, that when Pauline appeared, so superior was she in talents and endowments, that her own retirement would become politic: it is not yet known in what opera this young lady is first to appear. Meanwhile, Halévy's 'Cosmo de Medicis' is in active rehearsal; Halévy's music, by the way, deserves the one remark, for the offering of which in your columns there has been as yet no opportunity. That remark, however, merely contains the credit due to good intentions; for, if 'La Juive' is to be accepted as a fair specimen, while he has the right feeling for his subject, his imagination strains rather than finds—the consequence being much labour, and no creation; in brief, a work which will not utterly offend the thoughtful musician, but which can in no respect give pleasure to the amateur, who judges by instinct rather than reason. Auber's last opera, 'Le Domino Noir,' is honestly, to my thinking, worth fifty such as 'La Juive.' Scribe and his familiar, (for Scribe rarely works, as you know, without his assistant,) have given the composer the prettiest of pretty stories in the *libretto*,—gay, graceful, involved, with a touch of sentiment to make the third act interesting—here a supper of gallants, at which the disguised heroine is made to sing a *Cancion Espagnol*, with castanets; there a choir of nuns prattling over the uncanonical doings of their abbess, which, beginning with a fancy for a young *attaché*, end in a royal decree, absolving the Holy Mother from her celestial vows, and giving her to a gay stranger for

his bride. What could be more admirably fitted for the Opéra Comique, than this? Nothing! save Auber's couplets and choruses. We have heard all our lives of "dying of a rose," &c. Auber's is *lavender music*: a thing not to make the hearer expire, but to refresh him by its elegance and piquant sweetness. To praise Cinti Damoreau sufficiently, as the heroine of this opera, would hardly be possible: the hero's part, too, was pleasantly sung, and excellently well acted, by Couderc, a young artist, whose equal, for good taste and intelligence, I should be happy to see on our English stage. I fear, however, that the spirit of the Opéra Comique is as impossible to be imported among us, as the *bouquet* of Burgundy. But had I followed the fashion of my countrymen, whose intense constancy makes them prefer, when abroad, the identical amusement they have given in great perfection at home, I should have yearly the Italian Opera precedence, and spoken first of its most recent novelty, 'Lucia di Lammermoor,' which was brought out on Tuesday evening, and discussed on the following day quite as largely and eagerly, as the last of the infernal machines, which was to have been *confectionné* in England, for the demolition of that kind and politic host of the English, Louis-Philippe. But Donizetti's mechanism, however, is far more innocent than *Stiegler's*: there is no trace in it of an inspiring spirit of either complexion—never a note, as far as I could hear, chargeable either to Mephistopheles, or St. Cecilia! He has spun out his familiar feeble phrases, his characterless *air sucré* melodies, with as much regularity and rapidity, as if he had been winding ribbon from a yard measure; one symphony only lingers in my memory as striking and appropriate. To be sure, never was the effect of a story so destroyed, as that of Scott's 'Immortal "Bride,"' on the present occasion, A French dramatist would have tried to group its personages, and distribute its scenes, so as to produce an effect by contrasted character; here, even the signing of the contract is made sickly and unimpressive. Madame Tacchinardi Persiani won great applause as *Lucia*. She is perfect as a singer; her voice extensive, her execution delicately finished, her intonation most exact; but, withal, the least agreeable perfect singer I ever heard. Her tones are not merely small, they are meagre, and totally devoid of that winning quality, in virtue of which, thinner voices (Stockhausen's for instance,) have made themselves felt as genial. My *torgette*, too, showed me a pale plain woman,—her face as little bewitching as her voice. Her acting is neither blameable nor praiseworthy: her friends, however, tell me that, like olives, she is to be administered five times before she is thoroughly enjoyed and understood. To these musical notices I may add, that M. Berlioz (who may as fairly be called the chief of the Hoffmann school of composers in Paris, in right of his symphony 'Harold,' as M. Liszt may be styled the chief of the Hoffmann school of artists, in right of his meteoric hair, and his agonized gestures at the piano-forte,) has been decorated with a Cross of the Legion of Honour, in acknowledgment of his Requiem, which, though written for one of the July anniversaries, was only performed for the first time the other day, at General Damremont's funeral, and is pronounced on all hands an excellent work. With this notice I think, you may wind up your chronicle of the musical year in Paris. Let me, however, correct my account of M. Mainzer's singing class. There were a thousand pupils present,—not six hundred,—on the night when I was there; and Mr. Osborne, not M. Liszt, was the pianist: the latter being at Milan.

F. C.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

It is with deep regret, though not with surprise, that we have to announce that our distinguished countryman, the translator of Dante and of Pindar, the Rev. Henry Cary, has resigned the humble situation he so long held, as Under Librarian at the British Museum. This is, we presume, a consequence of the appointment of Mr. Panizzi as Librarian. We do not mention the circumstance as at all reflecting on Mr. Panizzi; but it is one that must increase, we imagine, to a painful extent, the responsibility of those who set aside the literary claims and long services of Mr. Cary in his favour.

We hear that the Bishop of Calcutta is collecting materials for the early history of Christianity in India; and that he has already obtained several im-

portant documents respecting the antiquities of the Nestorian and Armenian churches. An account of the Nestorian Christians in Kurdistan, written by one of themselves, was read to the Asiatic Society during the last session; but owing to the lateness of the period at which it was received, it has not yet been published in the Journal.

French and German naturalists are overrunning Abyssinia in all directions. Letters have just been received from Schimpfer, who was sent by the Wirttemberg Naturalists' Society to Africa. After sending home a collection of plants from the Hedjras and Mount Sinai, he arrived at Massawa in January, where great obstacles were raised to his prosecuting his journey, by the recent circumstance of two French travellers having killed an Abyssinian. However, he succeeded in reaching Arkiko and Haley, and thence sent on to the Abyssinian King Wabeah, who was encamped at Hazabo, between Adowa and Axum, for permission and safe conduct. This was granted, and he was soon welcomed at Adowa, the king's capital, by the German missionaries, sent from England, Blumhardt and Isenberg. From thence he intends to prosecute his scientific tour to the Abyssinian Alps.

The trigonometrical survey of the country between the Caspian and the Euxine, undertaken by order of the Emperor of Russia, for the purpose of deciding the long-pending question of their respective levels, is now completed. A letter from the celebrated astronomer Von Struve to Baron Alexander von Humboldt, dated Dorpat, December 1, contains the following important information:—

"Our travellers G. von Fuss, Sabler, and Sawitsch happily completed their laborious task on the 23rd of October. I have just received the reports and a copy of the journals from the village of Tschernoi-Rynof, near the station of Kolpitschia (on the road from Kisljar to Astrachan), despatched on the 31st of October (N.S.). The rapid progress of the operations made it impossible to keep up the calculations at the same pace. Our travellers, however, have gone through the whole, and are able, by a preliminary calculation, to state at once the following result as very near to the truth:—that the Caspian Sea is really considerably lower than the Euxine; viz., 101.2 Russian, = 94.9 Paris feet. This preliminary result is warranted to be correct within five feet. Thus the important question is, in the main point, decided, and the fact of the sinking of the Caspian Sea is incontrovertibly established. A detailed report will shortly be published in the *Bulletin Scientifique* of the St. Petersburg Academy. I can also give you the agreeable intelligence, that M. Fedorow, the astronomer, will return to us in a few weeks from a five years' tour in Siberia."

SPLENDID EXHIBITION.

NOW OPEN, at the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly, the Celebrated Picture of CHRIST REJECTED, and several others, by BENJAMIN WEST, late President of the Royal Academy; to which is added the large Picture of THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES REPROVED, by FREDERICK SAMSON THOMAS.—Open from 10 o'clock till dusk.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogues, 6d.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

ROYAL SOCIETY.

Dec. 21.—Francis Bailey, Esq., V.P. and Treas., in the chair.

A paper was read, entitled, 'Experimental Researches in Electricity, eleventh series,' by Michael Faraday, Esq., D.C.L., &c.

The Society then adjourned over the Christmas vacation.

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

At the first meeting for the season Mr. Bailey, President, in the chair, the President announced, that since the last meeting of the Society, in June, the Council had prepared an address of congratulation to her Majesty, on her accession to the throne; that the same had been presented; and that her Majesty had been graciously pleased to become the Royal Patroness of the Society.

Among the presents laid on the table, was the magnificent work of Struve, on the micrometrical measures of double and multiple stars, made at the Dorpat Observatory, from 1824 to 1837, with Fraunhofer's great telescope; accompanied by a report to the President of the Imperial Academy of Sciences

at St. Petersburg, detailing the nature of the work, and the principal results which had been deduced.

The following communications were then read:—On the Parallax of a Lyre. By the Astronomer Royal.

The author commences with stating, that after the discussions as to the sensible annual parallax of a Lyre, which have been conducted with so much ability and ardour, and in which the opposite opinions have been founded on so many well-chosen observations, it would be useless now to express an opinion, except it were based on more numerous and more excellent observations, reduced with greater attention to accuracy than in former instances. He states, therefore, that the whole number of observations employed was 184, made entirely in the year 1836, and, in general, distributed uniformly over the year (with the exception of the month of February, in which no observations could be obtained): that the observations were divided equally between the two circles, and that nearly half of them were by reflection: that the telescopes have been in the same position on the circle during the whole year, with the exception of a few days at its commencement: that the zenith points have been determined independently every day; and that the six microscopes of each circle have been read for every one of these observations, as well as for every observation assisting to determine the zenith point. After some further explanations, the author then gives the results in the form of equations, founded each on the mean of a group of observations; each set of observations (Troughton, by direct vision; Troughton, by reflection; Jones, by direct vision; Jones, by reflection) being divided into four groups, and an equation being obtained from each group, expressing the polar distance in terms of the correction of the coefficient of aberration, and the coefficient of parallax. Taking the mean of the results, with each circle, by direct and reflected vision, the coefficient of parallax from Troughton's circle appears to be $+0.2$; and that from Jones's circle -0.1 . The author concludes from this, that the annual parallax is too small to be sensible to our best instruments.

The second communication was, On the constant quantity of the Moon's Equatorial Horizontal Parallax, deduced from observations made at Greenwich, Cambridge, and the Cape of Good Hope, in 1832 and 1833. By Professor Henderson, Astronomer Royal for Scotland.

The author remarks that two methods have been adopted for determining the constant of the Moon's Equatorial Horizontal Parallax:—the first founded on the theory of gravity, which assigns a relation between the Moon's distance and the duration of her periodic revolution, the force of terrestrial gravity, and the magnitude of the Earth; and the second, on corresponding observations of the Moon's Declination, as affected with parallax, made at places remote from each other, on the earth's surface.

The determinations of the Moon's parallax by the second method, have hitherto been founded on the observations made in the middle of the last century by Lacaille, at the Cape of Good Hope, compared with the corresponding observations made in Europe. These observations were calculated by Lacaille, Lalande, and Du Séjour.

The observations of the Moon's declinations made by Mr. Henderson, with the mural circle, at the Cape of Good Hope, in 1832 and 1833, combined with the corresponding observations made at the observatories of Greenwich and Cambridge, afford other data for the determination of the parallax. And the author proceeds to give the formulae, by means of which the parallax may be deduced from the observations. A table follows of the quantities required for forming the equations of condition, and then the equations themselves, which are in number forty-three. In order to diminish the errors of the tabular parallaxes, these quantities are taken both from Burckhardt's and Damoiseau's Tables; and the equations formed are solved from each set of computed parallaxes separately.

The most probable value of the constant of parallax deduced from Mr. Henderson's observations is, therefore, $57' 1.8''$; the corresponding value of the Moon's mass is $\frac{1}{81.8}$; and of the coefficient of lunar nutation $9'' 28$.

The last communication was, a list of Moon-eclipsing Stars observed at the Royal Observatories of Greenwich and Cambridge, in the month of June, 1837.

STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

Dec. 18.—Sir Charles Lemon, Bart., President, in the chair. Six new members were elected. The first paper read was 'On the Wages of Printers,' drawn up by Mr. Day, of the printing establishment of Messrs. Clowes.

The workmen employed in the business of printing, are—1. Compositors, or those who arrange the type from the author's MS.; 2. Pressmen—3. Machine-men, or those who actually print the paper from the arranged types. From the introduction of printing into this country, in 1456, to 1774, little is known of the rate of payment. In the latter year, it appears that compositors received 20s. for a week's labour. About this period a system of paying per 1000 letters was first established: it soon became general, and, with some modifications relative to the size of the type, has continued to the present time. Previous to 1785, the price per 1000 letters was 4d.; on November 20 in that year it was advanced to 4½d.; in 1793 an advantage was conceded to the compositor equal to about 2s. in 20s. In December 1800, the price was increased to 5½d.; in 1810, the payment for 1000 letters was advanced to 6d. But in 1816 a distinction was made by the masters between manuscript and reprint works: after a severe and expensive struggle on the part of the journeymen, they were compelled to agree to a reduction on reprinted works of ¼d. per 1000; from this period reprint works have been paid 5½d., and manuscript 6d. per 1000. Although payment by the 1000 letters after 1774 became the general practice of the trade, it was necessary, from the peculiar nature of the business, to employ many hands on day-work. The following table shows the increase of this rate of payment, and the earnings of good compositors when fully employed,—day-work being regulated by the earnings of a good workman on the average description of work:—

In 1774.....20s. per week.	In 1805.....33s. per week.
1785.....21s. to 27s.	1810.....36s.
1793.....30s.	1816.....33s. to 36s.

Compositors on newspapers have always received higher wages than those engaged on other work. A corresponding advance has also taken place in the rate of labour, and at about the same periods.

Morning and Evening Papers.	Morning Papers.	Evening Papers.
Per week.	Per week.	Per week.
1785.....1 7 0	1801.....2 0 0	1 17 8
1786.....1 11 6	1809.....2 2 0	1 18 6
1793.....1 16 0	1810.....2 8 0	2 3 6

Although the compositor's weekly income on a newspaper is a fixed sum, it is so only on the condition that he produces a certain quantity of work—a deficiency in quantity producing a corresponding deficit in income. Assistants on newspapers are paid by the hour. There is also a class of newspaper compositors called supernumeraries, who are paid by the 1000 letters; and who, although constantly employed, are not required to attend so many hours as those termed by the trade full hands.

Comparative Scale of the price per 1000 letters, and price per hour.

Per 1000.	Books.	Morning Paper.	Evening and Sunday Papers.
Long Primer*.....	6d.	9d.	8½d.
Minion.....	6½	9	8½
Nonpareil.....	7	10	9½
Pearl.....	8	11	10½
Book-work.....	6d.	per hour.	
Morning Paper.....	11½		
Evening.....	10½		
Sunday.....	10		

There are only four different sized types employed on newspapers.

The actual working hours for those engaged on newspapers are as follows:—Morning Papers, 12 hours; Evening Papers, 10 hours; when engaged beyond these periods, the workman is paid for every additional hour's attendance, according to the above rates. Morning Papers vary as to the time of commencing their labours, from 3, to 4, or 5 in the after-

* To make this intelligible to the reader, we have used the several types here described: thus, Long Primer is printed in Long Primer, Nonpareil in Nonpareil, &c.

noon, to the hour 5 in the noon. papers from 8 labour night. Picals a until a together being Sunday labour. is count little of ten day weekly from 3s. earn, of average newspaper. In a many sides ar foreign manus is usual cording Names print and
E P S L B C Br Per 1000 letters of. 4d. M 7 No 10 Ju 10 Pe 10 Da
Pres la 4d. nie of played, yet, fro than th higher receive many of they ca This cl compos Number
The mittee inquire London week.
Dec. Solor Membe paper of precedi subject gunpowt ions w Colonel governm different which c constar ve shal of the After se procurin an acco Wilkins placed i althoug
XUM

noon, the hour of commencing being regulated by the hour of leaving. Evening Papers commence at 5 in the morning and terminate about 3 in the afternoon. The hours of attendance for Sunday newspapers are much the same as in book-houses—viz. from 8 to 8; except on Friday, when the day's labour seldom terminates before 12 o'clock at night.

Persons employed on Magazines and other periodicals are, on the eve of each publication, detained until a very late hour for two, three, and four nights together, and often during the whole night—many being occupied forty hours without intermission. Sundays are frequently devoted to this species of labour. This extra labour at the end of the month is counterbalanced by many of the compositors having little or nothing to occupy them for the first eight or ten days of the following month. Although the weekly earnings of many good compositors average from 35s. to 40s., by far the greater number do not earn, on the average, more than 20s. to 25s.; the average earnings of the whole trade (not including newspapers) may be about 27s. per week.

In addition to the price per 1000 letters, there are many additional charges, such as for notes at the sides and bottoms of the pages, tabular statements, foreign languages, law works, parliamentary work, manuscripts badly written; for these an extra charge is usually allowed. All alterations are paid for according to the time they occupy.

Names of the various sized types commonly used in printing; the number of lines equal to 12 inches; and price per 1000 letters paid to the Compositor.

	Lines to a Foot.
English*	64
Pica	7½
Small Pica	83
Long Primer	89
Bourgeois	102½
Brevier	112½
Minion	128
Nonpareil	143
Ruby	166
Perpetua	176
Diamond	205

Pressmen are usually paid piece-work, from 6d. to 1s. 4d. for every 250 impressions, according to the size of the paper, and the care required: if fully employed, they may earn from 33s. to 35s. per week; yet, from the supply of labour being so much greater than the demand, their average cannot be taken at a higher rate than 23s. Men who attend the machines receive from 33s. to 40s. per week. They also have many opportunities of working extra hours, by which they earn on an average from 6s. to 10s. per week. This class of men are, perhaps, better off than either compositors or pressmen.

	Journeyman.	Apprentice.
Number of Compositors in London	2,000	500
Pressmen	1,000	
Machine-men	Not ascertained.	

The second paper read was 'A Report of the Committee appointed by the Council of the Society to inquire into the state of Education in the parishes of London'—a notice of which we must defer till next week.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

Dec. 16.—Professor Wilson in the chair. Solomon C. Malin, Esq. was elected a Resident Member.—Mr. Wilkinson continued the reading of a paper on gunpowder, which was commenced at the preceding meeting. The present division of the subject was the manufacture, as carried on at the best gunpowder mills of this country. Several observations were made at the conclusion of the paper, by Colonel Galloway, who had had the charge of the government manufacture in India, pointing out the differences between the Indian and English methods, which the difference of climate, and some other circumstances, rendered advisable. These observations we shall place in juxtaposition with the description of the processes as furnished by Mr. Wilkinson. After some curious details relative to the mode of procuring saltpetre in different parts of Europe, and on account of the best mode of making charcoal, Mr. Wilkinson stated that the ingredients are simply placed in a shallow trough, and mixed by hand; and although this method might seem imperfect, it was

amply compensated by the subsequent process at the powder mill. The mixing in India was stated by Col. Galloway to be performed by placing the ingredients in barrels, furnished with ledges, projecting inwards; a number of bronze bullets were added, and the barrels were rolled round by machinery; the materials were thus well broken, and he considered this method an improvement. When mixed, the composition is taken to a mill, placed in a circular trough, and well ground by a couple of stone rollers, from three to four tons each in weight. This is continued about three hours, more or less, according to the state of the atmosphere. In India the grinding was effected by cylinders of bronze, each weighing six tons; these were six feet in diameter, and eighteen inches in breadth; and Col. Galloway conceived that the incorporation of the ingredients was more readily effected by the increased weight. This process reduces the material to a mass, which is then pressed strongly, by means of a screw and levers, to a cake resembling slate. The cake is afterwards broken up into small bits by means of wooden mallets, and corned or grained. This operation is effected by shaking it about in sieves, made of strong bullock's hide, and perforated. Large pieces of lignum vite are put into the sieves with the cake, to aid in breaking it up. The grains are then separated and classified, by passing through sieves of different degrees of fineness; they are subsequently glazed by rolling in barrels, which are whirled round, for several hours, with considerable velocity. In India, the granulation is performed more mechanically by an engine, composed of a system of rollers furnished with teeth; after passing through three sets of rollers, the powder is granulated, and is afterwards glazed as in England. The process is completed by drying the powder, which in England is effected by artificial heat, raised to 140° of Fahr.; and in India by the heat of the sun alone. Col. Galloway was of opinion, that powder dried in this way was better than that dried by stoves; and, in fact, that Indian powder, for the purposes of war, was really better than the English. Mr. Wilkinson produced some instruments which were used in proving the goodness of gunpowder, and observed that no single method of trying it was good; that one sort of epreuve showed the superiority for one particular quality, and another for another; but that actual trial in the way it is to be used is the only criterion. In this Col. Galloway concurred.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

TUES. Zoological Society (Scien. Bus.)....4 p. Eight.
THUR. Royal Society of LiteratureFour.

FINE ARTS

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The miscellaneous collection of prints before us, contains less than usual of what is merely trifling and ephemeral. The first to which we wish to direct attention is, 'Elymas the Sorcerer struck Blind,' another of Mr. Burnet's four shilling engravings, after the Cartoons of Raffael. The importance of a discovery, which enables such an artist to offer copies of such works, on such a scale, at such a price, cannot in our opinion, be much exaggerated. As an engraving it is sound and good: it may not perhaps at first please the eye accustomed to the trickier brassy style of modern book engraving, but it is full of general truth, bold, broad and vigorous, and excellent as a study for artists. But what we most desire is, to see these works stretched on canvas, varnished, and hung up, in a common black frame, in our national schools and mechanic institutions. The familiarising the eye to such works, is to educate it—to educate the eye, heart, and mind at one and the same time, for the Cartoons embody forth the most touching truths of religion: they awaken the highest thoughts, and arouse the dullest feelings.

We have also another copy of one of the Cartoons, 'The Beautiful Gate of the Temple,' engraved in basso-relievo, with Bate's patent anaglyphograph, by A. B. Freebairn. The specimen is remarkably delicate, and very beautiful; but it fails, like all the engravings we have seen by Mr. Bate's machine, in boldness of relief, as compared with the productions of M. Collas. These works, be it observed, are said to be engraved in "basso-relievo," and the name and the

process pursued lead to the inference, that the appearance of relief is the one special object sought after—the one thing that is to distinguish them from other engravings. Now, relief is so manifest in the works issued by M. Collas, that we never yet knew a person, who saw them for the first time, that did not pass his hand over them, as if nothing but actual touch could satisfy him that the surface was not in parts raised. Assuredly, no such effect is produced in the engraving before us, however beautiful in other respects; it may have a hundred points of superiority over the engravings of M. Collas, but it fails, of course, in degree only, in the one great merit which both parties claim for their several works. We say this with the most anxious wish to do full justice to any work produced by Mr. Bate's machine, because it has been most strangely assumed by some interested persons, that having, when the style of art was comparatively unknown in this country, gone to a heavy expense to give our readers a specimen of it, (see *Athen.* No 466,) we are in some way or other bound to uphold the one party against the other.

Mr. Lilley's portrait of the Duke of Wellington, painted for the Corporation of Dover, and engraved in mezzotint by J. Scott, is by no means the worst representation we have seen of the hero of Waterloo. The likeness is good—the light thrown upon the head, and withdrawn from the mantled figure with happy artifice; and there is a general boldness and massiveness in the composition, which make the work commendable as a picture. Mr. Scott, too, has done his part in a satisfactory manner. Another portrait that will be welcome to many is, Mr. Gordon's full-length of Dr. Chalmers, engraved by Lupton. The head is fine, gentle and benevolent in expression, well drawn and well engraved. The figure, too, is broad in its outline, but there is too much flicker of light about the drapery, and the accessories are brought too prominently forward: the chair positively divides attention with the doctor. We can by no means extend this expression of our contentment to Mr. Nelson Cook's portrait of Sir Francis Head, engraved (also in mezzotint) by Mr. C. Turner. The called-up look, the hair frizzled as "by malice prepense," are far too much after the humour of Lady Pentwistle, to besit the likeness of a man of sense and courage. Mr. Turner's engraving, too, might have been more mellow with advantage. A portrait of Benjamin Webster, Comedian, drawn and engraved by Henry Meyer, though not very vigorous, is in better taste. With these we may mention, a slight but clever lithographic sketch of the Right Honourable J. Planta, by Mr. Arundale; also a bold lithographic portrait of Dr. Müller, of Berlin, and a theatrical sketch of Mrs. Nisbett as the Young King. While on the subject of portraiture, we may announce the publication of Part VI. of Ryall's *Conservative Statesmen*, containing Earl De Grey, Lord Forbes, and Sir Robert Inglis; and of the second part of Mr. Saunders' *Living Political Reformers*, with portraits of Lord Melbourne, Mr. Leader, and Mr. Grote.

Mr. Parker's well-known print of *Looking out*, was sure to be followed by a *Looking in*, as companion; both being engraved by Geller. This time, instead of a smuggler with cocked pistol, we have a grizzled sailor with spectacles on nose, poring over a newspaper half out of the window. This is excusable perhaps, but the device becomes absolutely wearisome, and without any conceivable purpose, when presented a third time, as in the lithographed group of *Smugglers Attacked*, where a wounded free-trader dangles, head foremost, out of the frame, and a resolute soldier cocks his musket in a like absurd position.

A *Philosopher in search of the Wind*, is a clever lithograph by Fairland, after Farrier. A country boy, who has a propensity for playing tricks with the bellows, (a forbidden toy, as may be gathered from the judicial stick, which the matron brandishes over his shoulders), finds at last that his pastime fails, the homely machine having been rendered useless by a comrade no less enterprising, but more mischievous than himself. This would be droll enough, had we not seen faces, attitudes, and the whole humour of the thing so often displayed before by the same artist.

We must now turn to a more sentimental subject—*The Sunshine of Love*, painted by John Raoux, engraved by Cousins. This is a girl in a fanciful

dress, her boddice Spanish, her hair Chinese, reading a letter, so sweet and welcome that we might imagine its contents as throwing the glow which illuminates her features, did we believe in miracles, and did we not perceive that the curtain had by screens a window or a lamp. There is merit in this work; but the arrangement of the hair is objectionable—the two corkscrew curls, placed as they are, give an unpleasant contraction to the brow, which it is the intention of a coiffure, otherwise very ungraceful, to display.

Of works formerly noticed as in course of publication we may mention that a volume is now completed of *The Ports and Harbours of Great Britain*. It contains fifty engravings, including views of many of our principal trading ports, watering-places, and naval stations. Part II. of *Engravings from the Works of Newton* is also published, containing his portrait of Mrs. Lister; his fancy head 'The Deserted,' a veiled love-lorn maiden, drooping like the flower she holds so carelessly; and the good-humoured, timid Abbot Boniface of Kennaquhair, day-dreaming before the fire, in his sumptuous secret chamber. Few works have deserved a larger patronage than these memorials of one of the most graceful and humorous of modern artists. The *Engravings from the Works of Sir Thomas Lawrence* also keep up to the mark: Part IV. includes his Francis the First of Austria (an intractable subject), Lady Blessington, and Lord Ashburton.

A third number of Mr. Vivian's interesting *Sketches of Spain*, contains views of Moorish mills on the Guadalquivir, two from the plains of Vitoria, one of Murviedro, and one of a convent under the walls of Segovia. We must now conclude, and can merely mention that Mr. Rayner's illustrated description of *Haddon Hall*, that best known and perhaps noblest remains of ancient English mansions, and *The Memorials of Oxford* are completed; that the cheap and beautiful edition of *Don Quixote*, with its hundreds of illustrations by Johannot, goes on prosperously, and has arrived at its sixth number; *The Shakespeare Gallery* at the fifteenth; Mr. Smith's *Historical and Literary Curiosities* at the sixth; and *The Churches of London* at the twelfth. Mr. Cooke's *Rome* and Mr. Shaw's *Specimens of Elizabethan Architecture* are still making progress, slowly but well; and there has been lately published a *Plan and Elevation of the Monument intended to have been erected to Napoleon at Boulogne*, drawn on stone by Andrew Picken, from a drawing after the original design by Lieut. Newenham.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

DRURY LANE.

On Tuesday, THE SIEGE OF ROCHELLE; after which a new Grand Pantomime, called HARLEQUIN AND JACK-A-LANTERN; or, the Witch of the Drooping Well.

COVENT GARDEN.

On Tuesday, JANE SHORE; after which a grand Pantomime, called HARLEQUIN AND PEEPING TOM OF COVENTRY; or, the Lady Godiva and the Witch of Warwick, in which will be included Stanfield's *Diorama*.

LYCEUM—OPERA BUFFA.—'Il Nuovo Figaro!'—a 'New Merry Wives of Windsor!'—a 'New School for Scandal!' What would the critics write, and the public think, of a modern English dramatist audacious enough to attempt a work so entitled? The result of the essay under notice may be guessed. Spoiled as is the comedy of Beaumarchais † in its

† In a recent letter from Paris, a friend describes himself as present at a representation of the 'Mariage de Figaro,' given last week at the Odéon, which has recently been re-opened and re-decorated for a second classical French theatre, and may now boast the prettiest and the only clean *salle* in Paris:—"Here was Mars playing her best, ten years, at least, younger than she was a twelve-month ago, and still the unapproached among actresses—though, did I enter on this chapter, I could write by the hour of Mlle. Dejazet, who is hardly less excellent in a walk one degree lower, and less refined. To aside, however, by the 'Figaro,' what struck me even more than the inimitable *finesse* and archness of Susanna, or than the wit which breathes and sparkles through every line of this comedy, was the manner in which its well-known speeches and allusions were received. I may be wrong in imagining that the biting and indignant truths they contain came closely home, even yesterday, to some among the audience, though less poignantly, of course, than in the days when the tremendous plaudits with which they were cheered struck terror into the hearts of the Royalists. But the answer,—if I am right, and they were answered,—was

Italian dress, and by the divestments of character, dialogue, and wit, which it was necessarily compelled to undergo so as to make it adaptable to the lyric stage, the libretto of 'Le Nozze' is still as much better than the one under consideration, as the music of Mozart is better than the music of Ricci. Stale tricks, stale disguisings—a suspicious father—a constant heroine, aping madness to help herself to marriage with her masquerading lover—a Susanna, this time wearing the form of a milliner, and not of a *femme de chambre*—and a new Figaro—making up the plot and the personages. Some of the music is very pretty. We think that, of all the recent Italian writers whose compositions we have heard, Signor Ricci is the most capable of writing a classical Opera Buffa; we fear that, seduced by a national facility, as fatal in its way as the *dolce far niente*, he will never justify our opinion. But there is a freshness in the arrangement of his ideas, an occasional and unhackneyed elegance, if not an intrinsic novelty, which might be turned to account so as to gain permanent as well as present success. We shall instance the phrase in the prelude, where the sprightly mixture of instruments gives the effect of originality—the *terzett*, 'Ah! vicina al caro bene!'—the finale in the first act, and a quintet in the second—from which point, to the close of the opera, its music degenerates. It is heard, however, at the utmost disadvantage: Madame Franceschini has reached the time of life when "something of a re-creating cast" ought to be her motto—neither by *physique* or voice is she any longer fitted to be produced as *prima donna*. The second woman, Madame Bellini, is far more commendable. Signor Castellani, the new tenor, is, as yet, too inexperienced to bear the burden of a principal part. His voice is the very youngest we ever heard—clear, free, sufficient in extent, capable of passion and of execution: his style is, at present, the property of his singing-master; but there were indications whence we are inclined to augur that, one day, he may possess a good style of his own. Signor Sanquicchio is an incumbrance rather than an assistance to any performance, if he sings always with so little voice, and shows himself so shamefully imperfect as he has done in this 'Nuovo Figaro.' Signor Bellini was spirited as usual—sometimes a little coarse where he meant to be funny, but decidedly the best personage on the stage.

HAYMARKET.—A drama, called 'Pierre Bertrand,' was produced and failed here some nights since. We should not have alluded to it, but that the author, a Mr. Lawrence, has written a letter to the *Times*, complaining that the failure was owing to Mr. Ranger, who filled the principal part, having *Romeo* Coated a domestic drama of a serious nature into a farce. If this be true, it is hard that Mr. Lawrence should suffer in reputation and pocket through the freaks and vagaries of any actor, amateur or professional. At the same time, we must inform Mr. Lawrence, who appears to be only commencing the profession of dramatic author, that he had better, for his own peace, learn to suffer in silence. He can have read but little of newspaper criticism, or he would know, that actors are infallible, and authors the silliest of mortals. If a piece succeeds, it is by the talent of the actor—if it fails, no matter how well it may have been either written or constructed, it is the author's fault. This rule is so general, that our only wonder is, considering how miraculously clever actors are, that any piece ever fails.

OLYMPIC.—This active management has produced burlettas thick and three-fold, within the last ten days. The first, by Mr. Charles Mathews, is entitled 'The Ringdoves,' in which the principal feature is a very extraordinary personation of Mr. Mathews with two t's, by Mr. Mathews with one t; the effect of which is, that they become as like as two t's. The second, by Mr. T. H. Bayly, is called 'The Ladder of Love'—the leading parts being sustained by Madame Vestris and Mr. Keeley; and the third, whose name is 'The Bengal Tiger,' written by Mr. Charles Dance, where the principal characters are filled by Mr. Farren, Mrs. Orger, and Mr. Keeley. They have all proved successful.

murmured, not shouted: 'The ancient spirit' may not be dead; but the current flows onward almost as silently as it flows strongly."

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Scriptures	2	2	2	2	3
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